



Tudor Grange Academy Solihull
Dingle Lane
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 3PD

28th November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Following the Prime Minister’s announcements over the weekend and updated Department of Education (DfE) guidance released today, I am writing to update you on our risk assessment and the measures we have in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the school community.

You will be aware from my weekly updates, that cases in the Academy remain relatively consistent and that we have not seen any significant transmission in school this term. Based on updated information received from parents / carers this weekend, current cases at TGAS are as follows:

Year group	Number of current cases
7	1
8	1
9	5
10	2
11	0
12	5
13	1
Staff	0
TOTAL CASES	15

The latest guidance from the DfE, communicated in an email sent to schools today is detailed below.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings for staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

As a result, we will be asking all students and staff to wear face coverings in all communal areas from tomorrow (Monday 29th November). This includes corridors and eating areas (unless seated to eat). Students may, of course, continue to wear their face coverings in classrooms and outside areas if they feel more comfortable doing so, although this won’t be mandatory.

I would be grateful if you supported this by ensuring that your child has a supply of clean, plain face coverings and a plastic bag to store them in. Parents / carers should also ensure that students know how to put their face covering on and take it off, ensuring that it remains clean.





Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD).

If you require more LFD tests, these are available to order for free on GOV.UK or at your local pharmacy.

We would be grateful for your support with testing at home thus far and would ask that you continue to do this twice weekly (on Sunday and Wednesday evenings).

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. Any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days.

We have not had any confirmed or suspected cases of the new Omicron variant at school. If we are informed of any confirmed cases then we will be required to identify any close contacts and these students / staff would be required to isolate for a ten day period.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccine, please visit this [website](#).

New changes to the red list for international travel to England

South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe moved onto the [red list](#) at 12.00 midday Friday 26 November.

Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia were added to the UK [red list](#) at 4am Sunday 28 November. If individuals arrive in England from 4am 28 November, they must follow the red list rules.

Schools, out of school settings and colleges will want to consider whether to go ahead with planned international educational visits at this time, recognising the risk of disruption to education resulting from the need to isolate and test on arrival back into the UK.

We know that parents / carers of students who are due to travel to Austria in February on the ski trip will have questions based on this latest guidance. At this stage, we want to reassure you that we have appropriate insurance arrangements in place and are in regular communication with our external risk advisors, Pharos. We will write to affected parents / carers before Christmas with an update.

Thank you for your continued support and we will continue to keep you updated. If you have any queries, please email office@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk and we will do our best to answer any general questions that you may have as promptly as we can.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Smith
Principal

