



Parent Information Fact Sheet-COVID-19 key changes-September 2021

Bubbles

We will no longer operate bubbles in the new term, which means that assemblies* and larger group activities* can resume and students from different classes and year groups will be able to mix. **Careful monitoring of COVID-19 data in the community will be taken into consideration prior to these 'gatherings'.* The school shall, in the interim, continue to have school assemblies virtually.

Face coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, they recommend that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not usually meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. We do ask that as there are medically vulnerable staff/students that students will be requested to wear a face covering around them (in a classroom setting). We also appreciate that some staff and students may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they want to. *Please provide information to the school if your child is medically exempt from wearing a face covering so that we have this on file for staff information.*

Close contact tracing

Parents must still continue to advise the school, in the first instance, if a child has tested positive for COVID-19 however, schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19, and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace.

COVID@arkalexandra.org

From 16th August, children under 18 years old identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive will not need to self-isolate and will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test. Children aged 18 years old will be treated as a child until four months after their 18th birthday and will then be treated as an adult.

Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, we will communicate this to you.

COVID-19 testing

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school community. Recording your test result (positive or negative) **must** continue. Information on how to do this is given in the IFU included in all home test kits (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>)

If **your child has had COVID-19** within the last 90days (June, July & August) then they do not need to test until the 90day period has ended. They will be given home testing kits so that they can commence their testing after 90days. **Please inform the school that they will be exempt from testing on the return to the new school term in September** (they may need to see the NHS confirmation text which shows when their positive test result was received). Email: COVID@arkalexandra.org

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe

Isolating if travelling from abroad

Keep in mind that you and your family may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. You should plan your trip so that any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays.

The government can change the red, amber, green classification of countries on short notice. You will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education. You can find out more about the travel rules here: www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england.

Where possible, we will provide remote education for students unable to return from abroad due to COVID-19 travel restrictions while they are abroad.

Staying safe

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If you are worried about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk> or by phoning 111. There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19, do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks, changing rooms etc. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that students wash their hands often. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

I hope this information offers reassurance to the measures we are keeping in place to ensure a safe start to the autumn term.

We all recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has had to make, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.



Liam Collins
Principal