

Wallace Hall Update – 27.01.22 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Primary email address: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Primary phone number: 01848 332140

Academy email address: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Academy phone number: 01848 332120

Public Health Phone Number: 01387 272724

NHS24 Phone Number: 111

NHS Website: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

Dear Parent/Carer

WHOLE SCHOOL

There have been no changes this week from Scottish Government. However, our Local Authority have asked us to point out that the number of cases in Dumfries & Galloway remains high. In schools this is noticed particularly in the ELC and Primary aged children.

For those aged 12 and over the vaccination rate in Dumfries & Galloway is at a very high level which is excellent news and helps to keep our communities safe.

The Authority have also asked us to urge all people who are testing on Lateral Flow devices to register their results. In order to get the correct figures Scottish Government really need everyone to be registering their results whether they are negative, positive or void.

Please remember to advise the school as soon as possible if your child tests positive or develops symptoms of COVID-19. You can do this either by emailing the school (email addresses above) or by phoning the school office (phone numbers above). Please give details of your child's isolation dates.

Testing and Isolation

We recently became aware of a change to the testing rule for those people who have had COVID-19. Up until now, people who have tested positive should not carry out LFT for 90 days. However, the instruction now is that you should resume LFT testing immediately after your 10-day isolation period.

Following the statement by the First Minister last week, written guidance explaining the new rules around testing and self-isolation has been published. You can find the full statement by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-5-january-2022/>

The main points are:

Fully Vaccinated Adult Contacts (NB: definition of “fully vaccinated adult” is now 3 doses/2 doses plus booster) AND all Young People aged under 18 years and 4 months

No symptoms:

- You should only use Lateral Flow Tests if you do not have symptoms. You should carry out LFTs at least twice weekly.
- If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive you no longer need to have a PCR test; you should do LFTs for 7 days in a row and **record the results on the website.**

- If any of these tests are positive you must begin to self-isolate for 10 days. **You do not need to book a PCR test unless you have symptoms. If you do, you should begin to isolate and book a PCR Test (see below).**
- However, if you have a negative Lateral Flow Test on day 6 and, at least 24 hours later on day 7, you can end your isolation. You must record the results of these tests on the website before coming out of isolation.

If you have symptoms:

- If you do have symptoms you should book a PCR test immediately and self-isolate until you get your result.
- If it's positive you will be advised to self-isolate for 10 days.
- However, if you have a negative Lateral Flow Test on day 6 and, at least 24 hours later on day 7, you can end your isolation. You must record the results of these tests on the website before coming out of isolation.

Lateral flow kits for Secondary pupils are distributed in school and for everyone else can be collected from any of our [Community Testing sites](#), from your local pharmacy or ordered online www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme

From 31st January 2022, all young people under the age of 22 will be entitled to free bus travel. Children and young people aged 5–21 years old will need a new or replacement National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC) before hopping on board. Previously issued cards will not allow access to the scheme. Applications open from 10th January 2022 and can be accessed by following this link:

getyournec.scot

Is the quick and easy way for Scottish residents to apply for a National Entitlement Card online!

The current NEC cards that secondary pupils have will continue to work for cashless catering etc, however, if pupils want the free bus scheme added to their card, then they will need to apply for this themselves, or parents if under 16, through the website and a new card will be issued. The current cards will not work on buses as they need to have a specific chip in them so they can be scanned by the bus driver, this should not affect pupils who are already entitled to school transport, the scheme is aimed at general bus use.

In light of high levels of COVID-19 transmission, the Scottish Government is asking that you only apply for the scheme at this point if it is essential that your child travel by bus while restrictions are in place.

Please note, this is the latest information we have from Scottish Government and the Local Authority. If anything changes, we will send this out in future communications.

PRIMARY and ELC

Mitigations in place

- Adults maintain a minimum of 1 metre social distancing at all times from other adults within the school building.
- Staff members wear face coverings when within a minimum of 1m of a child or other adult and when moving around the building. Staff members can choose to wear a face covering at any time.
- Windows/doors are open to allow good ventilation.
- Good hand hygiene takes place with frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Children work within 'class bubbles' and do not mix with other bubbles. This is maintained throughout the day, including during playtime and lunchtime.
- Pupils who have PE should come to school in PE kit on those days. They will remain in PE kit all day.
- PE can take place indoors and outdoors.
- Enhanced cleaning.
- An asymptomatic testing programme is made available to all staff. Participation in the programme is encouraged but voluntary.

- Primary aged children are no longer required to wear face coverings on school/public transport.

Extra Layers

Please could parents and carers ensure that your child has a cardigan or jumper with them each day, and if you would like to send an extra layer than please do. The windows in the classrooms are open to allow for extra ventilation.

Drop Off and Pick Up

As before, schools may implement staggered start and finish times, to safely manage drop off and pick-up times. Given the ongoing stay at home message in place across Scotland, we would ask that, if possible, only one parent/carer comes to the school at drop off and pick-up times.

In line with Government advice, we would ask you to maintain a minimum of 1m physical distancing with other parents at the school gates. Please be particularly aware of your distance between other families if you are waiting to drop off or pick up your child at the ELC. We know that it can take a little time to hand over children in the ELC and that it can become congested. We will continue to monitor this and if necessary, we will introduce staggered ELC start and finish times to help ease this congestion.

All schools will continue to restrict access to their grounds and/or buildings. As before, face coverings should continue to be worn by all adults (unless exempted) when they go to the school. **We would really appreciate it if all parents could ensure that they do not approach our staff at a distance of less than 1m.**

Home Learning During Self-Isolation

In the primary school we will email parents each morning with work covered in class the previous day. If your child is unwell, however, they are not expected to complete the work. If your child has completed the classwork and is looking for more work, please get in touch with the school and we will point you in the right direction for accessing additional resources.

ACADEMY

Mitigations

- **All** pupils and staff members must wear face coverings at all times in classes and around the building (people who are exempt for health reasons and for whom the school have written communication from a parent do not have to and also when people are actually eating or drinking they can remove their face coverings briefly).
- **In class pupils no longer have to maintain 2m social distancing from each other (from 12th April), although pupils should maintain a minimum of 1m social distancing from staff members in class and at all times.**
- Pupils and staff should try to maintain a minimum of 1 metre social distancing at all other times within the school building, in corridors and other communal areas.
- Be outdoors as much as possible - wear appropriate clothing for all weathers.
- Pupils who have PE should come to school in school uniform (even if they have PE first thing) and bring PE kit with them. We are now allowed to use changing rooms so facilities will be available to all pupils to change in and out of PE kit.
- PE will continue to take place outdoors where possible but the guidance now says that indoor PE is okay.
- Keep windows/doors open to allow good ventilation - they should be open for at least 15 minutes before people come into class.
- Maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser when soap and water isn't available.
- Always wipe down your workstation before and after use, in every class, using the anti-bacterial wipes provided.
- Secondary pupils must wear face coverings on school/public transport.

We advised you in December that all secondary pupils can now download the Protect Scotland App which helps Public Health to identify close contacts of anyone testing positive, who also has the App. We see this as a positive

move and one that will help to keep all of our pupils and staff members safe. This is of course optional but we would encourage all secondary pupils to do this. To find out more about the App please click on the following link:

<https://protect.scot/>

Vaccination

The First Minister also emphasised that vaccination is the best protection against the virus. If anyone has not yet been vaccinated, it is not too late to do so.

Vaccinations for 12-15 and 16 & 17 year olds

The Immunisation Team have changed their plans to have clinics for the second dose for 12-15 year olds in school. This will no longer happen due to the high numbers of 12-15 year olds who have had their second dose via one of the community clinics.

- If your child hasn't had their vaccine, you can get information on how and where they can go by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccines/>

Extra-Curricular Sports Matches

Despite the rise in COVID cases, Scottish Government still see extra-curricular sport as low risk activities therefore matches can still go ahead provided mitigations are followed. We would ask you please to encourage your child to do a Lateral Flow Test the night before participating in any extra-curricular matches. LFD Test Kits are distributed fortnightly in school but if you need any more please contact the school office.

School Uniform/Ventilation

School uniform should be worn at all times and is not weather dependent. The uniform policy states that only a black v-neck jumper must be worn so the school tie can be seen. During the current situation with COVID and the need for all areas of the school to be well-ventilated, classrooms may be cold. In this case, with the teacher's authorisation, pupils can wear their jackets/hoodies in that class. This will change on a class-by-class basis depending on how cold each classroom is. Individual teachers will make that judgement.

Home Learning During Self-Isolation

In the Academy S1-S3 pupils should access any work in their subject folders on Satchel One and S4-S6 pupils should access any work in their subject folders in Microsoft Teams. If your child is unwell, however, they are not expected to complete the work.

With the increased use of technology, such as Teams and Satchel One, we are now better placed to set work for pupils and keep in touch with them. Nevertheless, it is important to point out that teachers have lessons to prepare and deliver in class, and so they don't always have the time to set detailed / comprehensive lessons for those who are absent. Where possible, we will endeavour to set work as close as possible to that which will be delivered in class. However, it may well be a 'scaled back' version due to workload in school.

If your child has completed the classwork and is looking for more work, please get in touch with the school and we will point you in the right direction for accessing additional resources.