

**Wallace Hall Update – 23.09.21 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

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Public Health Phone Number: 01387 272724

NHS24 Phone Number: 111

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

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Dear Parent/Carer

## **WHOLE SCHOOL**

Scottish Government updated their guidance to schools this week and the current mitigations will continue until the October holidays.

There have been further changes made to the Warn and Inform letters which are sent to parents and staff when there is a low risk i.e. when a person is not considered as a close contact.

These will now include a strengthened recommendation to take a lateral flow test before returning to school. This is in addition to current advice for staff and secondary pupils to take a lateral flow test twice a week, with a few days apart, and record the result before returning to the classroom.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that you can book a PCR Test online via the NHS Inform website above (on the letterhead) or by calling 119.

We continue to do everything possible within school as far as mitigations are concerned as we are sure you will be doing the same at home. However, we are aware that some pupils are discarding the Lateral Flow Device Test Kits that they are being provided with in school. These are distributed through their Health & Wellbeing classes. If you have given consent for your child to accept the LFD Test Kits, can you please ensure that they have them and are carrying out their tests regularly, twice a week is the recommended testing regime. Once they have completed the test it is important that they record the result on the Scottish Government website – details are in the booklet provided with the test kits, even if it is negative.

Further information specific to our school is available in the Primary and Academy sections.

If your child shows any symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them at home and book a PCR test and inform the school at the earliest opportunity. This also applies if anyone in the home has developed symptoms or has tested positive. **If you advise us that your child has received a positive result, whether it is a Lateral Flow Test or a PCR Test, please let us know if any other school pupils have been in close contact with your child. Close contact would include sleepovers and also spending a lot of time together out of school. This will really help to keep our school community safe as we can arrange for them to self-isolate much more quickly if we have that information from you.**

**If your child is contacted by the Track & Trace Team, you should follow advice given by them. This advice would include that your child should self-isolate, book a PCR test and remain at home until they have a result. If it's negative, they can return to school. If it's positive they will be advised by Test and Protect Team to self-isolate and given an end date.**

**If anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child(ren) at home until the person receives a result of a PCR test. You may wish to book your child(ren) in for a PCR test too. If positive you will be contacted by Test & Protect and given advice from them.**

Some parents will have received a 'Warn & Inform' letter from school this week. This letter is only to inform you that there is a confirmed case of a person connected with Wallace Hall. If you receive one of these letters you don't need to do anything different except be more vigilant of anyone in your household having symptoms. If your child has been identified as a close contact you will hear directly from Test & Protect. If we, or the person who has tested positive, identifies your child as a close contact, and your child is in school at that time, we will contact you and ask you to collect them.

## 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 will continue to take place outdoors where possible but the guidance now says that indoors PE is okay.
- As per Education Scotland guidance, PE will continue to take place outdoors.
- Careful timetabling in the Primary minimises the number of staff who work between different bubbles.

### 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. 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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/>

### **Extra-Curricular Sports Matches**

We are very pleased that extra-curricular sports matches are taking place again. However, we do need to ensure that we are complying with all COVID mitigations to protect everyone. 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.

### **Universal vaccination of children and young people aged 12-15 years against COVID-19**

On 14 September Scottish Ministers accepted advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) to offer a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) to children and young people aged 12-15 years old.

Letters and consent forms will be sent home with all pupils aged between 12 and 17 on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, and are available on our school website:

Letter

[https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19\\_f4bce084ad2a4f7894e4f24da18578ea.pdf](https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_f4bce084ad2a4f7894e4f24da18578ea.pdf)

Consent Form

[https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19\\_bdf791fefdbf4a2193bbdf066b7e91c5.pdf](https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_bdf791fefdbf4a2193bbdf066b7e91c5.pdf)

A leaflet will also be sent home which you should discuss with your child(ren) before making a decision.

You can either send the consent form into the school office or your child can bring it on the vaccination day. We will send a Groupcall the day before to remind you. We do not have a date for Wallace Hall yet but will let you know as soon as we do.

### **Vaccination Drop-In Clinics for 16 & 17 year olds**

Vaccination Drop-in Centres are available across the region. Now that vaccines are available to 16 & 17 year olds, we would encourage this age group to have their vaccines. Here is a list of dates of forthcoming venues where these clinics will be held:

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Dumfries Vaccine Centre, Mountainhall Treatment Centre 09:30-12:30; 13:30-16:00

For more information please click on the following link: <https://www.nhsdg.co.uk/vaccines/>

### **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. 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.

### **Asymptomatic Home Testing for Staff and ALL SECONDARY Pupils**

**All secondary pupils should test themselves twice each week, using the Lateral Flow Tests provided by the school.**

As part of the range of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools, an asymptomatic testing programme has been made available to all school staff and secondary pupils. Participation in the programme is encouraged but voluntary. Regular testing will help to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity and ask them and their close contacts to self-isolate, thus minimising the likelihood of them passing on the virus. This will really help towards Wallace Hall being a safer place to be for everyone.

If you have not already signed up for the self-testing kits for your child(ren) you can do so by clicking on the link below to see a copy of the correspondence and then completing the Microsoft Form link within it:

[https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19\\_b9086bcc88c34f64be9eb362a5c6a551.pdf](https://645e8b6e-becd-4bbd-988d-5cb7cd92fae4.filesusr.com/ugd/92da19_b9086bcc88c34f64be9eb362a5c6a551.pdf)

If your child tests positive on their Lateral Flow Test and you register their result, you should book a PCR Test. The PCR Test is more accurate and you will usually have a result within a few hours, *although due to the large number of tests taking place at present, your result could take longer*. It is important that your child and all members of the household self-isolate until the PCR Test result is confirmed. If it is positive you will be contacted by someone from NHS Test and Protect who will advise you of your isolation dates and ask you for more information on close contacts.

More information on the asymptomatic testing programme is available on the Support DG website: [SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Asymptomatic Testing in Scottish Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, and ELC Providers \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/support-dg)