

## Wallace Hall Update – 03.02.22 - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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Academy phone number: 01848 332120

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

There have been a number of positive cases in all settings of our 2-18 school this week. Although this is currently at a rate that is not alarming, we would appreciate it if all parents could ensure their children are following the mitigations to help protect themselves and others. We sent out a communication earlier this week about other symptoms which have been recognised as being associated with the Omicron variant of COVID, which is the predominant strain in our community at present. The new symptoms are:

- sore head
- sore stomach
- diarrhoea
- vomiting

The existing symptoms of COVID are still relevant. These are:

- high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Anyone displaying any of the symptoms of Omicron, new or old, should carry out a lateral flow test and record the result on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If it's positive then you need to isolate and follow instructions from Public Health. **If it's negative but you still have symptoms then you should isolate and book a PCR test.**

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.

We really do appreciate the support of all parents in encouraging your children to comply with the mitigations, both inside and outside of school.

We have removed the generic advice from this email but it can now be found on our website on a separate document. You can access it by clicking on the following link:

[https://www.wallacehall.co.uk/files/ugd/92da19\\_63a9363999904a35b1e67409b9adb620.pdf](https://www.wallacehall.co.uk/files/ugd/92da19_63a9363999904a35b1e67409b9adb620.pdf)

**Testing and Isolation**

Please note the changes in red below regarding the advice on testing and self-isolating.

**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 7 days. If you test negative on Day 6 and Day 7 you can come out of isolation on Day 7 (if you carry out your LFTs in the morning and at least 24 hours apart). If you still test positive on either Day 6 or Day 7, you should continue to carry out LFTs up to Day 10. You need to have 2 negative LFT results in a row to come out of isolation before Day 10. Again, if you carry out your tests in the morning you are free to come out of isolation on Day 10, regardless of your LFT results.
- You do not need to book a PCR test unless you have symptoms.
- You must record the results of LFT 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.
- You should book a PCR test if you have symptoms even if you have carried out an LFT and it's negative. If your LFT is positive however, you do not need to book a PCR Test.
- If it's positive you will be advised to self-isolate for 7 days. If you test negative on Day 6 and Day 7 you can come out of isolation on Day 7 (if you carry out your LFTs in the morning and at least 24 hours apart). If you still test positive on either Day 6 or Day 7, you should continue to carry out LFTs up to Day 10. You need to have 2 negative LFT results in a row to come out of isolation before Day 10. Again, if you carry out your tests in the morning you are free to come out of isolation on Day 10, regardless of your LFT results.
- You must record the results of these tests on the website before coming out of isolation.

**Wearing of Face Coverings on School Transport**

We have been asked by our transport colleagues to ask for your support in continuing to ensure that our young people continue to abide by the wearing of face coverings on school transport. Pupil compliance has reduced and despite daily reminders by drivers (and from the school's duty managers) it has been raised by drivers as a health and safety concern. Reports are also being received that a rising number of pupils are claiming an exemption and when asked for proof they are unable/unwilling to do so. The school will provide School Transport with a list of pupils who are exempt to minimise the ongoing conflict and stress.

As a reminder, the Schools' Guidance states:

*The position on face coverings and physical distancing on dedicated school transport aligns with the position on public transport, so that only young people aged 12 and over are required to wear face coverings. This means that children aged 5-11, who were previously asked to wear face coverings, no longer need to do so. It is important for parents, schools and local authorities to continue to reinforce the importance of school pupils wearing face coverings on dedicated school transport and public transport (noting that there is a legal requirement to do so on public transport).*

Your assistance in ensuring this is conveyed to your children would be greatly appreciated.

## ACADEMY

### SQA Exams 2022

As it currently stands the SQA are still planning to run the full exam diet from the end of April to the start of June 2022. However, in recognition of the disturbance to learning and teaching suffered over the past few months they have indicated that they will aim to support pupils in a number of ways. They have already made a variety of adaptations to courses that you will be aware of, and earlier this week they indicated a number of subjects specific supports they will put in place in addition to the aforementioned course adaptations. At this stage the full detail of what these supports will look like is not available but the information we have so far can be found in the link below.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100366.html>

Please be assured that once the more detailed information becomes available (week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March) we will ensure teachers work with pupils to make as much use as possible of it to help support them in the lead up to their exams.

### Timetable Changes

Please be advised that, from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, we will no longer have Odd and Even Timetable weeks. We will be reverting back to the timetable that was in place prior to the Christmas break. There will no longer be 3 bells to segregate pupils entering and leaving the building. Pupils are being informed of the changes.