



Update to Covid-19 Measures in School from September 2021

In line with changes to government guidance for schools (available [here](#)) we will be making the following changes to our Covid-19 management protocols from September 2021. These measures will continue until further notice. In the event of the School needing to deploy an outbreak management plan, we will revert to stricter protocols more in line with measures previously in place. This will happen if a significant number of cases are identified at School which are suspected to have been transmitted on site and will be done in consultation with external agencies. The current guidance states 5 linked cases are likely to trigger deployment of a contingency plan.

LFT Testing:

All Senior School pupils will be offered two on-site lateral flow tests on their return to school in September. Previous consent given for testing means we are not required to ask for consent for this again. Parents of pupils under 16 and new to the School will be asked for consent.

Following this, all pupils and staff will be expected to continue testing themselves at home twice weekly in line with government advice. They are due to review this advice at the end of September.

Response to positive tests and Contact tracing:

Please see separate flow chart on how to respond to a positive test result. [This will follow from the School Nurse].

The School no longer has responsibility for contact tracing in the event of a positive case for a pupil – this will be done by the NHS Test and Trace service as with other individuals. Parent/Carers are expected to cooperate with this and should not send a child to school who should be isolating. You must alert the School to any positive test result or need to isolate using the covid@bancrofts.org email address, in addition to following usual absence procedures. [NB We are obliged to share pupil/parent contact information with NHS Test and Trace if asked for it in line with Public Health requirements.]

In addition, as from the 16th of August anyone who has had both vaccines no longer needs to isolate if they are a contact trace. Contacts will be advised to have a PCR test but do not need to isolate whilst waiting for results. This advice also applies to all under 18-year-olds. If anyone tests positive, then they isolate as per government guidance.

Removal of Bubbles:

We will no longer operate the School in a bubble system, but may revert to this in the event of managing an outbreak. This will enable greater numbers of co-curricular events to take place, and will also allow cross year group interactions. Prefects can undertake duties and will have a duty rota. Pupils may choose to wear a face-covering if they are interacting with pupils they do not regularly interact with to reduce the risk of transmission – this may enable us to avoid outbreaks and ensure we can continue to offer a wide range of co-curricular activities.

Removal of staggered start to the school day:

We will no longer operate a recommended stagger to the start and end of the school day. However, we will recommend that pupils go straight to their own form rooms at the start of the day to reduce mixing between groups and to reduce crowding in corridors.

Ventilation:

We will continue to keep the School well ventilated by keeping windows and doors open where possible. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed in colder weather.

One-way system:

We will continue to operate the one-way system for the top corridor in the main School building to reduce crowding. Pupils should continue to follow the signs.

Lockers:

Pupils will be allocated a locker at the start of the year and will be allowed to use them. This facility will not be removed in the event of an outbreak management plan, as we have changed the location and size of lockers to reduce crowding in corridors.

Catering:

Lunch service will revert to being offered solely in the dining hall and Sixth form Common Room, and the area currently available only to staff (glass atrium) will revert to being available to pupils to enable lunch to be served to greater numbers of pupils at one time. A larger grab and go selection will continue to be offered to staff who wish to eat cold food in other staff areas. A self-service area will return. Breakfast will also return.

Changes to rules on face-coverings:

We will continue to require pupils to bring a face-covering and sanitiser to school. Initially, we will expect pupils to wear a face-covering in situations where they are in crowded places such as corridors at lesson change over times and they will require a face-covering on the bus to West Grove and on School minibuses at other times. This measure will be in place whilst we manage the return to school and assess how many cases, if any, are discovered in the LFT testing during the first few weeks back. We will regularly review local cases and may ask pupils to wear face-coverings in situations such as assemblies where we feel this may

mitigate the threat of an outbreak. Our outbreak management plan includes reverting to more widespread use of face-coverings.

Teachers can no longer require pupils to wear face-coverings in classrooms, unless we deploy our outbreak management plan, and should not wear a face-covering when teaching. Teachers and other adults are encouraged to wear a face-covering in crowded places initially.

All members of the community should be respectful of others and whilst social distancing is no longer required, colleagues should be mindful of others who may wish to keep their distance.

Continuation of cleaning and sanitising protocols:

Our increased cleaning regime will continue with key touchpoints around the school being cleaned frequently and cleaning products available in classrooms for teachers to sanitise classrooms regularly between lessons. We will continue to ask pupils to sanitise their hands on arrival at school and before entering the dining hall.

Larger gatherings:

We will not hold full school assemblies in the Senior School to reduce the risk of transmission, but will continue to hold assemblies in smaller groups such as year groups or Section groups (e.g. Sixth Form). We will continue with our amended Fire Procedures which have pupils gathering by year and not by house. Staff meetings in person will resume.

Seating plans:

Whilst we are not responsible for contact tracing, we will continue to keep seating plans for all classes and make sure information can be made available if needed by external agencies.

Additional areas for staff:

We will continue to keep space in the Head's house for staff as additional social and work space.

Medical room:

This will continue to operate on an appointment system. Measures continue to be in place to respond to a case of suspected Covid at school and the School Nurse will reissue these instructions as a reminder to all staff at the start of term.