



**BIDDULPH
HIGH
SCHOOL**

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Chief Executive Officer: **Mark Kent**

18th October 2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Re: COVID-19 Update

We are, as you know, experiencing a continued rise in cases of COVID-19 in Year 9. This morning we have received notification of another 7 students which increases our overall percentage of positive cases in Year 9 to 20%.

To try to reduce the spread further we are asking Year 9 to remain at home and move to online learning from tomorrow, Tuesday 19th October. Students will return to school, on Tuesday 2nd November. All students in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a voucher this week. The Local Outbreak Team have suggested that students test daily via Lateral Flow Tests for the rest of this week and students will come home with a box of tests today. We ask that:

- **All students in Year 9 move to online learning with effect from Tuesday 19th October. Those who test positive whilst at home must isolate for 10 days and inform the school by email.**
- Where there is a positive COVID-19 test in the household, we now ask that school-age children remain at home until they receive a negative PCR test.
- If students remain well, they will return to school on **Tuesday 2nd November** (Monday 1st November is an INSET day).
- We will use the Microsoft Teams platform to continue to provide work for students at home.
- You should continue to use the Lateral Flow Tests at home (we would recommend daily testing this week) and you must book a PCR test if these return a positive result.
- Please test students on the evening of Monday 1st November before returning to school the next day.
- Whole school testing will take place on Wednesday 3rd November.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community and within school.

You have a duty to ensure that your child is not present in a public place during school hours (8.40am-3.15pm) unless there is reasonable justification for this. Students will be expected to attend lessons and complete learning online using the Microsoft Teams platform. All students have a username and password to access this website and attendance, and the amount of work completed, will be monitored by the school. We will be asking our students if they require support for this later today to ensure that no child is left without access. The school will remain open as normal for all other year groups and staff will be able to support you and your child where needed.

Vaccination Programme

The Immunisation Team will still be in school on Thursday 21st October, as planned. If you have consented for your child to receive the vaccine, and they have not tested positive in the last 28 days, they will be able to come into school for their vaccine from 9.45am. A further email will be sent to all those students affected. We are hoping to offer a 'mop-up' for students unable to have the vaccine and further information will be sent out regarding this, after half-term.



In the meantime, the main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste.

There are additional symptoms now linked to the Delta variant:

- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119
- If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

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.

Further information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We are also hopeful that the extensive measures that we have put into place at school will be successful in avoiding the spread of the virus across other year groups. We understand that this is disruptive for Year 9, but we are hopeful that this extended period away from school will break the escalation of cases we are experiencing in that year group. We will be putting measures in place to support them moving forward and these will be as follows:

- Face coverings continue to be worn in communal areas.
- Siblings must remain at home until they receive a negative PCR test.
- PE kit must be worn on days where students have PE. This is to remove any transmission whilst changing. Full school uniform must be worn on non-PE days.
- We will retain the staggered end to the day, releasing Year 9 at 3.10pm.
- Assemblies will remain remote in classrooms.

Please take good care and do not hesitate to contact us if you require advice or support: office@biddulphhigh.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



E C Robinson
Headteacher

