



Downs View

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the current situation with Covid at college. As I am sure you are aware the infection rates for Brighton & Hove are still quite high and this is impacting on us. Over the last few weeks we have had a number of cases at both of the college sites. As the cases were linked this meant that the college sites have been in an 'outbreak' situation and we have put in place measures to try and stem the outbreak. The measures that have been put in place are class bubbles, daily lateral flow tests (LFT), wearing of face masks and no non-essential visitors on site.

Our Covid risk assessment has been reviewed and updated so that it continues to support the risks around Covid but also ensures that we can keep as many pupils in college as possible. The updated risk assessment can be found on our website.

As you are aware, if you are contacted by track and trace to say that you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid you are asked to take a PCR test. The main change to our risk assessment is that we are no longer asking close contacts of a positive case to isolate while they await their PCR test result. The reason for this is due to the long incubation period for Covid we have found that this initial PCR test is not picking up cases. If staff are a close contact then we will ask them to do daily LFTs for the 10 days following the contact and be extra vigilant around symptoms.

We will let parents/carers know if their child has been a close contact and we will advise you to book a PCR test for them if they are able to tolerate it. We will also advise regular LFTs if your child is able. Pupils that are under 18 years and 6 months can continue to attend school/college as normal unless they have a positive LFT/PCR or become symptomatic.

If your young person is aged over 18 years and 6 months then they will need to follow the adult guidance below if they are a close contact for someone who has tested positive for Covid.

- Vaccinated adults need to book a PCR but can continue to attend college while they wait for the result. If negative we would advise that they do regular LFTs and are vigilant around symptoms.
- Unvaccinated adults will need to isolate for 10 days following the contact.

I want to thank you for your continued support as unfortunately the impact of Covid is still being felt and will be for a while to come.

Please do contact myself or any of the Deputies if you have any questions.

Best Wishes

Vanessa

Vanessa
Executive Headteacher

