



**ST DOMINIC'S**  
**Sixth Form College**

## **Covid-19 Update – Summer Term 2022**

### **Introduction and Context**

Whilst the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic has started to subside in the UK, infection rates have remained high across the country during the early months of 2022. Whilst protection is provided by the vaccine and it will continue to keep people safe, there is a need to maintain certain protections within the College in order to prevent large scale infections and subsequent absenteeism as we enter the crucial summer examination period for both year groups. This document sets out our updated policy on (a) the wearing of face coverings and (b) the process for isolation should a student or a member of staff test positive for Covid.

### **Face Covering Policy**

Masks are no longer legally required in most public spaces. Government guidance recommends that people still wear face coverings in enclosed spaces where they are mixing with large numbers of people. To help mitigate the continued spread of Covid 19 and associated absences as we approach the summer exams for both year groups, (national numbers remain high at the end of April 2022) we have decided to ask students and staff to continue to wear face coverings when inside a building. This is a visual sign that Covid is still present and transmissible and a risk to all members of the community.

Students should ensure that they have a mask with them and that they wear it when in lessons, the LLC, the Study+ centre and the canteen. Staff will routinely ask students to comply with this policy. Students who forget to bring a mask with them will be asked to purchase one from reception for £1. Masks will be made available for students who have forgotten them in the examination hall. Temperature checks will be carried out prior to a student entering the examination hall. At present there is no specific guidance for schools and colleges on what happens if a student misses an exam due to a positive Covid test. It is therefore important that we keep transmission rates as low as possible until all the examinations are over to support our students to successfully complete this summers examination series, the first since 2019.

#### **Students:**

- Must attend College with a face mask or other suitable face covering. This must be worn correctly so as to cover both the nose and mouth
  - Must wear face masks in all lessons and when inside a building
  - Who have a relevant medical condition will not be expected to wear a mask. Students or parents should contact the College if this is the case and they will be issued with a **yellow** lanyard
  - When outdoors, are not required to wear a face mask. However, if they are inside, for example in the canteen then they must wear a mask unless they are in the process of consuming food or drink
  - May be required to wear a face mask at other times, such as during a fire drill
- The College Discipline Code will be used if students persistently break these rules. This could include suspension if students fail to act on previous disciplinary warnings

**Staff:**

- Must wear a protective face covering when indoors – this can be a mask or a face shield
- Who have a specific medical condition, precluding them from wearing a face covering, should alert Tom Colgan, HR & Finance Director
- Should be mindful when visiting offices or other similar enclosed spaces to ensure that they wear a face covering

**Visitors:**

- We ask that all visitors to the site should if appropriate wear a face covering and be offered one upon arrival in reception.

**Isolation Policy for students and staff with confirmed/suspected Covid 19 infection**

St Dominic's will be following the guidance on isolation from the Department for Health as per below:

**From Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022:**

- Adults (19 years+) with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college, or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- If an 18 year-old or under-18 tests positive, they should stay home for **3 days** and can then return to college as long as they no longer feel too unwell to attend and do not have a fever. The rationale behind this is that evidence suggests younger people shed the virus for a shorter period of time.
- If an adult tests positive, they should stay home for **5 days**
- Lateral Flow Tests are no longer free, but people may still test if they have old test kits at home or if they buy one from a pharmacy.

**Originator: Principal**

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