

15 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last two days, I have been in contact with the NHS Track and Trace service to discuss possible actions that I may need to take throughout the school to reduce the risk of an increase in cases of Covid-19.

As we can all see from the situation in Scotland, where students have already been back in schools for a month already, the number of cases has increased. I can assure you, we are not seeing cases increase this week at Stanway, but NHS Track and Trace has worked with me to suggest some temporary measures to endeavour to keep cases as low as possible for as long as possible.

The aim this year is to keep the school running in the way it would normally run while keeping everyone as safe as possible too. I am sure we all want to see students experience their Science lessons, for example, in a Science lab, and Food lessons in a specialist room. In order to make that a reality this year, I have suggested some short-term measures that we can introduce from tomorrow (Thursday 16th September) for 2 weeks only. I will review the situation with NHS Track and Trace on Wednesday 29 September, when hopefully some or all of the additional measures can be withdrawn again.

I hope you will see this precautionary step as one that can be supported, and hopefully these measures will only be short-term.

Year Group Assemblies

Although the DfE advice is for these to continue, I will no longer be holding Year Group assemblies. Instead, assemblies will revert to being pre-recorded, and these will be played in morning registration time while the students are with their form group.

Large Gatherings of External People

We are now cancelling or postponing all events within these next 2 weeks where large numbers of people come onsite from outside of the school, such as tomorrow's Navigating Success Evening for Year 11. It is a shame that these events cannot take place in person, but we will create recorded versions of each presentation and will make these available on the website as soon as possible. The last thing any of us would want is to spread the virus throughout a year group by holding large presentations with two to three hundred people in each sitting. While this is not ideal, I feel it is a good measure to introduce. A separate decision will be made regarding the Open Evening for Year 6 parents in due course.

Hand Sanitiser

This has always been available, but staff will encourage this even more, especially at the start and end of the day. Staff will also make sure that students on designated buses have also had the opportunity to use the hand sanitiser.

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Face Coverings

Let's be honest, no-one enjoys wearing face coverings, but for this short period of time, face coverings will need to be worn, but only in corridors and queues. The ventilation in classrooms is very good at Stanway, largely due to the new buildings and spacious rooms. I tour the school every day to check windows are open, and many rooms have air systems that draw external air into the rooms, which creates excellent ventilation. Therefore I do not need to ask students to wear face coverings in classrooms, especially when movement in the rooms is minimal. In addition, all rooms are still set up with students all facing one direction, rather than in groups. However, when the school community moves around the site between lessons, the corridors become busy and are not as well ventilated as classrooms. The movement of students also could create air movement, and therefore I would ask that face coverings be worn in the corridors by staff and students. Queuing for the canteen is also a period of time where students are in close proximity to each other, and therefore wearing face coverings need to be worn in queues for the internal food outlets. (It has always been the case that these should be worn on school designated transport, and this should continue).

I can assure you, all these measures will be reviewed with my Senior Leadership Team and with NHS Track and Trace. This review will take place on Wednesday 29th September and will give the school two weeks to see any effectiveness of these additional measures.

I would ask that you and your sons/daughters support these measures in the short term so that we reduce the risk of any increase even starting to happen within the school community.

In the meantime, if your son or daughter is identified through the NHS Track and Trace service as a close contact of a positive case, you should book a PCR for them, but they **should** continue to come to school until the results come back.

However, please keep you son or daughter off school and book a PCR for as soon as possible if they:

- Have one of the three symptoms (new and continuous cough, high temperature, loss/change or taste/smell), or
- Have a positive result from a home test (lateral flow test).

In any of the above situations, please make contact with the school using this [google form](#) that enables us to collate information as quickly and effectively as possible, or email positivecase@stanway.school

Thank you in advance for your support,



Mr J Bland
Headteacher