



MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL

1891

Cheltenham Road,
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Kerry McCullagh
Principal

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19th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are working over the holiday to prepare school in line with the new COVID guidance from the Department of Education (DfE).

The government has produced this [guide](#) 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges.' A copy of our risk assessment will be placed on the COVID update page of our [website](#) for the beginning of September. Due to the narrow corridors in parts of our building we will continue to ask students and staff (who can) to wear face masks in the corridors. Please ensure your child brings a plain black/white or blue face mask – fashion masks are not permitted – to school every day.

Please find below frequently asked questions developed by the DfE for Secondary School students and their parents and carers to explain the changes to COVID safe measures in school.

Will secondary age pupils at schools have to stay in bubbles?

No. Secondary school students won't have to stay in bubbles.

What about face coverings?

At Montpelier High School we have risk assessed the narrow corridors we have in some parts of the school and will continue to use face masks when moving around the inside of our building. We will review this at the end of September.

What things will be staying the same?

Guidance on hygiene measures, cleaning, keeping classrooms well ventilated will remain.

What if my child is clinically extremely vulnerable?

Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable should attend school and college including out-of-school settings. If your child requires additional support or has additional vulnerabilities please email us on mhs-info@montpschool.org

What if my child has symptoms?

If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

What if my child has symptoms/a positive LFD test?

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform school. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).

If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test. PCR tests can be booked online through



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the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to school during term time.

What about if there is a positive case in school?

One of the key changes is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

How will contact tracing happen now?

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents/carers – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

What if my child is identified as close contact?

If the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We understand that the relaxation of restrictions will be welcomed by many but also cause concerns for some of our community. If your child requires additional support or has additional vulnerabilities please email us on mhs-info@montpschool.org. Whilst we welcome the positive benefits these changes will have on reducing absences from school and lost learning; we will continue to be vigilant and actively work with Public Health England and be ready through our contingency plans to introduce further restrictions if required to keep our community safe.

We look forward to seeing students return to school in September able to fully access the whole educational and enriching experience of our school.

Best wishes,

Mrs Kerry McCullagh Principal