

6th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Need for 10 days COVID Isolation.

Following the recent announcements from central government regarding different self-isolation periods, we are writing to inform you that our Trust has made the decision to continue with a 10 day COVID isolation period due to the following up to date national guidelines listed below (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> (30th December) which states:

To further reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others, if you end your self-isolation period before 10 full days you are strongly advised:

- to limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- to work from home if you are able to
- in addition to venues where it is a legal requirement, to wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people
- to limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
- to follow the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#)

You should follow this advice until 10 full days from when your self-isolation period started (from when you started to be symptomatic or you tested positive with a LFD).

We appreciate that the Trust requirement for a 10 day isolation period differs to the recently publicised 7 day isolation period for the general public. However in our schools, all individuals are in close contact with other people outside of their households in an enclosed classroom which is crowded and where ventilation is somewhat limited in some areas.

We also have both pupils and staff who are considered to be vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk and therefore at risk of serious illness, who according to the guidance are now required to be in school. As I am sure you understand pupils returning after 7 days, when they are still potentially infectious, put these vulnerable pupils and staff at an unacceptable risk.

Like pupils and their families, we want all of our pupils back in school as soon as possible. Throughout the pandemic, we have followed and responded to the guidance of the DfE and the NHS



in the best interest of the pupils, staff and wider society, even when, as on this occasion there is ambiguity regarding the advice we are receiving from different agencies.

We will review this situation on the **26th January** when the government will make further announcements regarding Plan B and national guidance will be updated accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Helena Hamilton
Headteacher
Bromley Beacon Academy, Orpington Campus

