



Smithdon High School  
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Re: JHi/LT

23 February 2022

Dear parents

Following the announcement from the government on Monday night and further guidance released by the DFE yesterday we would just like to clarify the following points in relation to staff and students at Smithdon High School.

Staff and students are no longer required to complete twice weekly lateral flow tests. We are unable to place any further orders for test kits and therefore if you require additional test kits please collect them from your local pharmacy, or order these directly the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

On Tuesday 22 February, we removed the requirement to wear face masks in classrooms. The exception to this will be if your child is taught by a vulnerable member of staff, including any pregnant staff; students may need to continue wearing face coverings in these lessons. Any student is welcome to continue wearing a face covering if they wish.

We ask that staff and students continue to wear face coverings in the corridors and when queuing for food in the canteen, for now, unless they are exempt. If cases and absences continue to fall over the next few days we will hopefully be able to remove this requirement too, but will inform you of this before it happens.

Face coverings continue to be recommended on school transport.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.

The government advises adults and children who test positive to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. If a child has any of the main symptoms a test should be ordered and they are advised to stay at home while waiting for the results. The public health advice remains unchanged.

For further information please visit: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/21/what-the-latest-advice-on-testing-and-self-isolation-means-for-education-settings/>

It is important that, with measures and regular asymptomatic testing being removed, we all continue to exercise caution. We may be required to reintroduce any of the above measures if cases or absences once again rise, under the direction of our local health team.

Thank you once again for your support over these past two years during the Covid pandemic.

Yours sincerely

**Mr J Hirst**  
**Headteacher**