



20th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Increase in COVID-19 Cases in Schools in our Region and Vaccination Information

I am writing today to give you an update on the situation at Chew Valley School with regards to COVID-19. Over the past few days our region has seen a significant increase in the number of cases being reported in schools. This has resulted in some schools moving back to most year groups being at home working once more on Microsoft Teams or in the case of Gordano School, one of our partner schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, a request that all students who are not exempt should again wear masks. All of the schools where action has needed to be taken have been in direct consultation with government agencies, who have advised their next steps.

Whilst we have not had quite the numbers others have experienced, we have over the past few days seen a definite increase and we are taking advice from the government agencies ourselves once more. It is important to remind everyone that if any student has symptoms of COVID-19 then a full PCR test should take place.

For COVID-19 NHS guidance on when a child should attend or stay off of school, please see the attached link. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home and [arrange to have a test](#). There are several other symptoms linked with COVID-19. These other symptoms may have another cause and are not on their own a reason to have a COVID-19 test. If you are concerned about your symptoms, seek medical advice.

If adults or children have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine and have symptoms of COVID-19 or have received a positive test result, you should still follow this guidance. This is because it is still possible to get COVID-19 and spread it to others even if you are vaccinated.

We are expecting the levels to continue to rise after the half term break and that we will need to make alterations to our ways of working through reviewing our risk assessment. We have already taken the decision to move our Sixth Form Open Evening scheduled for Tuesday 9th November online and further details will follow from Dr Holland.

As you are aware, Virgin Care were in school yesterday carrying out the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Due to Virgin Care staff shortages, not all children for whom consent had been given received their vaccinations. Virgin Care yesterday indicated that they may return to school for a second session. We have today been informed by the Department for Education that NHS England will soon be opening an additional offer for 12 to 15 year olds to get their COVID-19 vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. This offer will run parallel to the in-school vaccination programme. Parents and carers of children aged 12 to 15 will receive a letter from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme shortly, including information about how to book an appointment out of school, if this option is preferred.

In the meantime can I ask that all students continue with the lateral flow testing twice a week and importantly do this in the 24 hours before they return to Chew Valley School on Monday 1st November. It is really important that test results are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. To report results to the NHS, please click [here](#). Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. The test results also need to be reported to school [here](#).

I very much appreciate your support with this.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Beynon', with a horizontal line underneath.

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher