



Edmonton County School

Educating our Community for Success

2 January 2022

School re-opening in January 2022 and COVID-19 Lateral flow testing on site- update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well, and that you have been able to enjoy the festive period. I am writing to you with some updates regarding the start of the Spring Term this week:

Monday 3 January: Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday 4 January:

- First day of term for Primary children (Reception to Year 6)
- Years 10-13 to attend school only for a lateral flow test – see timings below – and then return home.
- School closed for Years 7-9
- Additional staff INSET day for the Secondary school

Wednesday 5 January:

- First day of term for Years 10-13
- Years 7-9 to attend school only for a lateral flow test – see timings below – and then return home.

Thursday 6 January:

- First day of term for Years 7-9
- All students in all year groups in school

Face masks: I am sure you will have seen in the media that the Government has announced that students in Year 7-13 are expected to wear masks in classrooms at the start of the new term to reduce the transmission of the Omicron COVID variant. ***This means that all secondary-aged students (except those who are medically exempt) should wear masks at all times in school buildings, except when eating seated in the canteens.*** Please could you ensure that your child/ren are aware of this change, and arrive at school every day with a suitable mask. Further details can be found at [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Potential staff absences: All public sector employers have been asked by the Government to plan for significant levels of staff absence in the next few weeks due to illness or self-isolation due to the Omicron COVID variant. Whilst we will endeavour to keep the school open for all students, there may be times when the level of staff absence means that it is not possible to have all students in school receiving face-to-face teaching. If it becomes necessary for some year groups to move temporarily to remote learning, I will write to you again.

Lateral flow tests: A key part of the Government's plans for a safe return to school in January is the mass testing of all secondary students and staff prior to their return to the classroom using 'lateral flow tests'. Students will be tested once at school when they return. Please also see lateral flow test FAQs below.

What do I do if my child has COVID-19 symptoms?

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, they must not attend school until they have received a negative test result from the more reliable external PCR test. Your family must continue to follow NHS and government guidance on self-isolation and testing where symptoms of COVID are present. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are well known (cough, fever and loss or change of taste or smell) but more recently we had students testing positive after displaying a range of symptoms including a sore throat, headaches, stomach cramps, runny nose or diarrhoea.

If in any doubt, please keep your child off school and get a more reliable external PCR test at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Edmonton County School is part of Edmonton Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10311383. The registered office is at Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1HQ.

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Lateral flow test frequently asked questions (FAQs):

How many lateral flow tests will students have?

Year 7-13 students will be tested once by trained staff on site. After this test, parents will be provided with home testing kits (by the school) which should be used twice weekly. **No further tests will be carried out at school.**

Do I need to provide consent for my child/ren to have lateral flow tests?

Yes. Consent provided earlier in the pandemic will still apply (and does not need to be provided again), but for those who have not previously done so, consent forms should be completed online using this link: <http://bit.ly/3aFPfP1>. For students younger than 16 years, consent must be provided by the parent/carer. Students over 16 can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent/carer if under 18.

Is testing compulsory?

No, testing is not compulsory, but it is strongly advised. This is about the safety of all of our students, their family members and staff. If students come to school who have COVID-19 asymptotically, this can lead to other students and staff becoming ill, impacting on everybody's safety and the education of large numbers of students.

What is involved in a lateral flow test?

These tests involve students taking their own throat and nose swabs (guidance is available on our school website) whilst trained staff oversee the process and analyse the results. Results are obtained after about half an hour, so the whole process takes roughly 45 minutes, including registration. You can find more information about this type of test using the following link: [Understanding lateral flow antigen testing for people without symptoms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms)

When should my child attend school for their lateral flow test?

The table below shows the dates and times that students should arrive for their test. All students should arrive in full school uniform including a mask (unless your child is medically exempt). When your child arrives on their home campus they should make their way to the relevant testing site: the main hall on the Cambridge Campus and the sports hall at the Bury Campus. Once your child has tested and they have received their result they should return home. If your child tests positive, a member of staff will contact you.

Date	10:00-12:00 am	12:30-2:30 pm	3:00-5:00 pm
Tuesday 4 January 2022 Yr 10, 11, 12 & 13	Year 11 C/B1 – 10:00 C/B2 – 10:20 C/B3 – 10:40 C/B4 – 11:00 C/B5 – 11:20	Year 10 C/B1 – 12:30 C/B2 – 12:50 C/B3 – 1:10 C/B4 – 1:30 C/B5 – 1:50	Sixth Form – Yr 12 Cambridge Campus & Yr 13 Bury Campus Arrive alphabetically via surname A – E 3:00 F – J 3:20 K – O 3:40 P – T 4:00 V – Z 4:20
	08:30-10:30 am	11:00 - 1:00 pm	1:30 – 3:30 pm
Wednesday 5 January 2022 Yr 7, 8 & 9	Year 7 C/B1 –8:30 C/B2 –8:50 C/B3 –9:10 C/B4 – 9:30 C/B5 – 9:50 C6 – 10:00	Year 8 C/B1 – 11:00 C/B2 – 11:20 C/B3 – 11:40 C/B4 – 12:00 C/B5 – 12:20 B6 – 12:30	Year 9 C/B1 – 1:30 C/B2 –1:50 C/B3 – 2:10 C/B4 – 2:30 C/B5 – 2:50

Thank you for your continued support. I am sure that by working together we can continue to keep our community as safe as possible. If you have any questions or concerns about the content of this letter, please contact info@edact.org.uk with any enquiries.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul Miller, Head of School