

Our Ref: DLA/379.LCO

24 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID Update

Since the 1st November, Suffolk is considered an Enhanced Response Area (ERA) with increased temporary powers in place, such as the reintroduction of face coverings. The first review of these measures has taken place, with further guidance published Monday 15th November from the Director of Public Health for Suffolk.

The next County review date is Friday 26th November. Any revoking of measures in place will only take place when Suffolk case rates for 10-19 year olds falls below the regional and national rates allowing more individualised decisions to then be made.

The reviewed guidance, in place with immediate effect, has identified a 3 level approach. This helps schools identify where they are in terms of the numbers of positive cases and what measures should be in place in relation to these numbers. **Stowmarket High School currently falls into the category of Level 1.** We have not got 2 or more linked cases, nor have we 10% of positive cases from a linked group-although, as the guidance states, Level 1 control measures apply whether there are positive cases or not.

Level 1	
<p>This level applies to all Suffolk settings, whether there are positive cases or not.</p> <p>1) 2 or more cases, who are linked* and have both tested positive within the last 10 days.</p> <p>2) 5 or more linked* cases or at least 10% of a linked group of children or adults who have tested positive within the last 10 days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued control measures in line with current Covid Risk Assessment-hygiene measures-hand/respiratory; ventilation; symptomatic individuals not to attend school • Essential visitors only, all wearing face masks whenever on site • Face masks for staff in communal areas • LFT testing, twice weekly for all staff • Daily LFT testing for staff and students in close contact with positive case, with a PCR follow up 5 days after first contact evidence of outcomes will be encouraged to be shared. So long as tests are negative students can continue to attend school.

NB Linked Group: a class, school club, friendship group.

Parents/Carers/Visitors:

- Face coverings must be worn when coming onto the school site
- There will be no visitors in school except those classed as essential e.g. health workers, social care, safeguarding staff or specialist education staff

Staff:

- Face coverings will be worn in all communal areas in school

Pupils:

- Face coverings will be worn in all communal areas in school

These measures will continue to be maintained:

- Enhanced handwashing/hand sanitising
- Extra ventilation
- Staff and student Lateral Flow testing two times a week

Thank you for your continued support and If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards



Mr D Lee-Allan
Headteacher