

Buckswood School Return to school isolation and Covid-19 testing plan – February 23, 2021

In anticipation of schools being opened for face to face learning on March 8th, this document outlines the plans in place for isolation of international travellers and the testing plan for all staff and students at the start of term and, for the staff, on an ongoing basis.

Staff

All staff returning to work on site must take a lateral flow test one week prior to returning to work. This can be done at school, or at home if staff are comfortable administering the test themselves. If negative they can continue to teach remotely and do not have to isolate. If positive, this must be followed by a PCR test (go to the nearest testing facility) and whilst waiting for the result they, along with their household, must isolate. If PCR confirms the result, they must isolate for 10 full days along with their household. Staff who tested negative with the first LFT will then take a second LFT 3 to 5 days after the first – as with the first test, this could be at home if comfortable with performing the test on themselves. Results must be reported to school in line with instructions issued by BHS. If negative, the staff member can return to work on site. If positive, this must be followed by a PCR test (go to the nearest testing facility) and whilst waiting for the result they, along with their household, must isolate. If PCR confirms the result, they must isolate for 10 full days along with their household.

Prior to returning to face to face teaching on March 8th, the following testing timetable is to be followed by staff:

Tuesday March 2nd – 1500 – 1700 Staff with surnames beginning with A to I

Wednesday March 3rd – 1500 – 1700 Staff with surnames beginning with J to S

Thursday March 4th – 1500 – 1700 Staff with surnames beginning with T to Z

Staff can either wait to be tested, or collect testing kits at this time. Upon arrival on site, all staff must park in the front carpark, take their temperature at the remote thermometer in Main House, sanitise their hands and go to the sports hall to collect test kits or be tested, avoiding going into other school buildings.

Each week, staff will have two lateral flow tests - ideally, these are to be done at home if comfortable with performing the test on themselves. If not, they must liaise with the school healthcare staff (nurse@buckswood.co.uk) to arrange a time for testing. Results must be reported to school in line with instructions issued by BHS. If negative, the staff member can return to work on site. If positive, this must be followed by a PCR test (go to the nearest testing facility) and whilst waiting for the result they, along with their household, must isolate. If PCR confirms the result, they must isolate for 10 full days along with any identified close contacts and their own household.

If a number of staff members test positive it may require a move to online learning for a period of time in order to ensure that education can continue to be delivered appropriately and safely.

Boarders

All boarders upon return to school from overseas are required to isolate for 10 days in line with UK government rules.

The rules around isolation and travel can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>.

Prior to travelling to the UK everyone must:

- take a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and get a negative result during the 3 days before you travel
- book and pay for a travel test package, which will include COVID-19 tests to be taken on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of your quarantine. **These packages cost £210 and must be booked through the website link above.**
- If you are booking a test to release Covid-19 test then information about this is below but it must be booked prior to travel.
- complete a passenger locator form with details of where you will home quarantine when you arrive and the travel test package booking reference number

Please note that providing false or deliberately misleading information when filling out your passenger locator form is an offence punishable by imprisonment. You could be fined up to £10,000, imprisoned for up to 10 years or both if you do not provide accurate details about the countries you have visited in the 10 days before you arrived in the UK. Isolation can take place at school provided there are available rooms for this, but isolation can also take place with UK guardians if that is preferable. During isolation, learning can be accessed online via Microsoft Teams.

Boarders isolating due to international travel can also opt into the test-to-release scheme which means that on the 5th full day of isolation they can complete an additional PCR test. Should this return with a negative result you are then released from your 10-day isolation however, it is important to note you will still be required to complete a day eight PCR test. A test to release test can be ordered at <https://covid19.oncologica.com/> Students coming from a country on the UK red list (list can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-measures-to-protect-the-uk-from-variant-strains-of-covid-19#travel-bans-to-the-uk---banned-countries>) are not eligible for the test-to-release scheme.

Boarders arriving to school having spent the period of school closure within the UK must take a lateral flow test (LFT) on day 1 of arrival. If negative, they can board as normal and attend lessons. If positive, they must take a PCR test and isolate until the result is returned. If PCR confirms the result, they must isolate for 10 full days along with any identified close contacts and their household with whom they spent the period of closure. Any boarders isolating at school due to travel quarantine must remain in their rooms during this period of time. Meals will be brought to them during this waiting period and lessons can be accessed online. In line with government regulations, a second LFT test will be taken on day 3 of their stay at school and then a third 3 to 5 days after that.

Day students

All day students returning to school after working remotely over the period of school closures are expected to take three lateral flow tests prior to returning to school in line with government guidance. As 30% of infections are asymptomatic, this is a key step in providing reassurance that our school community is a safe place for students and staff as it identifies anyone who is asymptomatic prior to their mixing with other students and staff. We understand that there have been some concerns raised over the necessity of this, but we urge all families to engage with the school nurse if they have concerns so we can test everyone before arrival and minimise the chances of wider isolation and further disruption to learning. If parents do not consent to the testing we may have to insist on their child being educated remotely for the remainder of the term in order to protect our boarding community and we would encourage dialogue with the school nursing staff in this regard.

The testing will be done at school on the drive, with students remaining in their vehicles. Timings and dates will be according to the schedule set out below. We recognise that this will have an impact on online learning next week, but this is unavoidable unfortunately. If negative they can

continue to learn remotely prior to the opening of school for face to face learning and do not have to isolate, however we ask that families help the school with social distancing and following guidance in place around Covid-19 prevention between the date of the test and return to school. If positive, this must be followed by a PCR test (go to the nearest testing facility) and whilst waiting for the result they, along with their household, must isolate. If the PCR test confirms the result, they must isolate for 10 full days along with their household and any close contacts. At the end of this isolation they can come to school. A positive test result must be reported to the school.

Once term begins, we are asking families to test their children at home in line with government guidance on a weekly basis. These results must be reported according to the information provided to you when the tests are given out. If negative, the student can continue to attend school for lessons on site. If positive, though, this must be followed by a PCR test (go to the nearest testing facility) and whilst waiting for the result they, along with their household, must isolate. If PCR confirms the result, they must isolate for 10 full days along with their household and any close contacts. At the end of this isolation they can come to school. A positive test result must be reported to the school.

Day student return to school testing programme

Monday, March 8th, 2021

0900 – 1100 - Lower and Upper 6th

0900 – 1000 Surnames A to M (inclusive)

1000 – 1100 Surnames M to Z (inclusive)

1130 – 1330 – Form 5

1130 – 1245 Surnames A to K (inclusive)

1315 – 1430 Surnames M to Z (inclusive)

1430 – 1630 – Form 4

1430 – 1530 Surnames A to K (inclusive)

1530 – 1630 Surnames L to Z (inclusive)

Tuesday March 9th, 2021

0900 – 1100 – Form 3

0900 – 1000 Surnames A to G (inclusive)

1000 – 1100 Surnames H to Z (inclusive)

1130 – 1330 Form 2

1130 – 1230 Surnames A to G (inclusive)

1230 – 1330 Surnames H to Z (inclusive)

1430 – 1530 Form 1

A negative test means that, in line with government guidance, students can then attend lessons. From a practical perspective, this means that Lower and Upper 6th students with a negative test result can attend classes on Monday morning once they have been tested. Form 5 students with a negative test result can attend classes on Monday once they have received a negative test result. Form 4 students can attend classes from Tuesday morning if they receive a negative test result on Monday due to the later time for their tests. Form 3 and form 2 students can attend classes once they have returned a negative test result on Tuesday and form 1 can attend classes from Wednesday morning, provided they have provided a negative test result on Tuesday afternoon. We ask that if your testing period is scheduled at lunch time, please can you bring a packed lunch in with your child. If a positive result is returned, they must return home immediately at the time of testing and isolate in line with guidance. Close contacts and household members must also isolate in line with guidance. As the student will not have been in contact with anyone from the school at that time the school will not be contacting other families after round 1.

The second round of testing will be according to the schedule below and will take place at school, either in the Sports Hall (if wet) or on the tennis courts (if dry). Students will come out of lessons for their testing so there will be some disruption, but this is unfortunately unavoidable. If a negative result is returned, students can return to their class immediately. If a positive result is returned they must be collected from school and follow the isolation guidelines. Close contacts and household members must also isolate in line with guidance and the school will contact affected families.

Thursday, March 10th, 2021

0900 – 1100 - Lower and Upper 6th

0900 – 1000 Surnames A to M (inclusive)

1000 – 1100 Surnames M to Z (inclusive)

1130 – 1330 – Form 5

1130 – 1245 Surnames A to K (inclusive)

1315 – 1430 Surnames M to Z (inclusive)

1430 – 1630 – Form 4

1430 – 1530 Surnames A to K (inclusive)

1530 – 1630 Surnames L to Z (inclusive)

Friday March 11th, 2021

0900 – 1100 – Form 3

0900 – 1000 Surnames A to G (inclusive)

1000 – 1100 Surnames H to Z (inclusive)

1130 – 1330 Form 2

1130 – 1230 Surnames A to G (inclusive)

1230 – 1330 Surnames H to Z (inclusive)

1430 – 1530 Form 1

The third and final round of in-school testing will take place according to the schedule below and will take place at school, either in the Sports Hall (if wet) or on the tennis courts (if dry). Students will come out of lessons for their testing so there will be some disruption, but this is unfortunately unavoidable. If a negative result is returned, students can return to their class immediately. If a positive result is returned they must be collected from school and follow the isolation guidelines. Close contacts and household members must also isolate in line with guidance and the school will contact affected families.

Monday, March 15th, 2021

0900 – 1100 - Lower and Upper 6th

0900 – 1000 Surnames A to M (inclusive)

1000 – 1100 Surnames M to Z (inclusive)

1130 – 1330 – Form 5

1130 – 1245 Surnames A to K (inclusive)

1315 – 1430 Surnames M to Z (inclusive)

1400 – 1600 – Form 4

1430 – 1530 Surnames A to K (inclusive)

1530 – 1630 Surnames L to Z (inclusive)

Tuesday March 9th, 2021

0900 – 1100 – Form 3

0900 – 1000 Surnames A to G (inclusive)

1000 – 1100 Surnames H to Z (inclusive)

1130 – 1330 Form 2

1130 – 1230 Surnames A to G (inclusive)

1230 – 1330 Surnames H to Z (inclusive)

1430 – 1530 Form 1

When testing has been concluded, as mentioned above, the school will be sending home test kits that we are asking families to use twice a week to help us keep our community safe.

If you are unable to arrange for your child to be brought to school to be tested, please contact nurse@buckswood.co.uk to see if alternate arrangements can be made.