



We are writing to update you on Covid cases at St Stephen's. As you know, although we might be enjoying some freedom from restrictions, it was always a possibility that we might have to put additional measures back in place, if positive cases were confirmed.

In the last week, when we had our first case in one class, we immediately took action to prevent further spread. Thank you to the parents of the class concerned, who have been hugely supportive and are helping us to prevent the infection spreading further across the school. Public Health (London Coronavirus Response Cell LCRC) had advised us that we remained on 'green' with the number of confirmed cases, which are all contained within one class.

This morning, further cases were confirmed. Although it has, so far, been contained within one class, Public Health (LCRC) have today advised that the criteria have now been met for an 'outbreak' and our school must take 'amber' control measures. Fortunately, most of the controls that we have taken already fulfill the measures that we have been advised to take:

- increased frequency of LFD/PCR testing in the class concerned
- separating the affected class from others indoors
- outdoor assemblies
- reinforcing hygiene measures and cleaning.
- continued high level ventilation
- restricting the number of visitors in the school building
- tracking any further contact a positive-case child had in clubs in the school setting
- return to online learning for those children who are well enough to work but must isolate

After taking advice from LCRC, we are now introducing these further measures;

- staggered entry for the class concerned (please see separate email)
- pausing internal assemblies (large-group gatherings)
- mask- wearing for adults when moving around the school or where there are groups of people
- revert to online meetings
- promote increased frequency of testing across the whole school, for children and adults  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>
- we have requested further advice on large group gatherings and we will update you when we know more

These measures have minimal impact on the whole school so far and mean that most children are still enjoying face to face education. In order to prevent us moving to 'red' restrictions, we ask that the whole community increases the frequency of LFT testing. Furthermore, please don't send your child to school with any symptoms, even if they are minor. If your child does test positive, please inform the school as soon as possible via email at the weekends and email and phone during the week:

[info@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk)

Tel: 020 8892 3462

We would like to thank the whole community for your continued support. This is certainly a period of transition - we hope that this outbreak is short-lived and that we can continue to come together, as a community, over the coming weeks and months.

Kind regards,

St Stephen's Team