



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7HL

Tel: 01442 394 141

Email: admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Web: www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Sam Orsborne

20 September 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy.

As adjust to the changing face of Covid, our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. However, we have had to plan for the possibility of an outbreak and what actions we would take to reduce further spread.

Unfortunately, we are close to the threshold for an outbreak to be declared due to the number of positive cases here. In line with the latest national guidance and as required by the Public Health team of Hertfordshire County Council we are therefore implementing elements of our Outbreak Management Plan and will be reintroducing the following measures until further notice.

The following actions are taken as a last resort and will be for the shortest amount of time possible.

Face Coverings

- **Secondary settings** - Re-introduction of face coverings for the whole school when moving around inside the premises, such as in corridors and communal areas where close contact cannot be avoided. Students may wish to wear a mask in lessons.

Shared Areas

- Students coming to school in PE kit to avoid use of changing rooms etc. on the day/s they have PE or Dance
- Equipment sharing may also be limited, and any shared resources, such as sports, art, and science equipment, will be cleaned frequently and between use by different classes / groups.

Testing

- We are asking all Year 11 students to do daily asymptomatic testing as well as siblings of Year 11 who attend the school

Home testing

LFD testing kits will be provided.



Aspiration, Determination, Integrity



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General COVID information

Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get to your destination
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your co-operation, we wish those affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Orsborne
Headteacher



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Appendix A

How to book a test online when you have been identified as a close contact but do not have symptoms yourself

- 1) Go to [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) (www.gov.uk)
- 2) Scroll down and select start now
- 3) Is the person who needs a test an essential worker? **Select NO**
- 4) Test available scroll to bottom **Select continue**
- 5) Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? **Select NO, none of these symptoms**
- 6) Has the person been asked to get a follow-up test? **Select NO**
- 7) Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? **Select none of the above.**
- 8) Why are you asking for a test? **Select I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional.** Then **Select My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms.** **Select continue**
- 9) Complete your details and select how you wish to receive your test.

