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Dear Parents/Carers

Following an extraordinary meeting of the East Berkshire Health Protection Board, Headteachers across the Local Authority have today issued the following advice:

*We strongly advise that Head teachers implement these enhanced measures, over and above current government guidance, as soon as is practicable.*

- *Use of face coverings in communal areas (unless exempt) for staff, children and visitors in secondary schools.*
- *Reduce contact between and within year groups in school where possible. The extent to which this can be achieved will be different between primary and secondary schools, and between individual schools. The priority remains minimising disruption to education, however where possible we advise the following:*
  - o *Avoid mixing between groups (either class or year group)*
  - o *Separate break and lunch areas / times where possible*
  - o *No whole school (primary) or whole year group (secondary) assemblies*
- *In both primary and secondary schools and colleges, any child or member of staff who has a household member test positive for COVID-19 should be advised to take a daily LFD test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing.*
- *In both primary and secondary schools and colleges, any child or member of staff who is identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace should be advised to take a daily LFD test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing.*

The majority of these measures are already in place at Edgbarrow School. Please note the change to the guidance with regard to daily testing if you are a close contact or have a positive case in the household, we will be issuing additional kits tomorrow. Given rising cases in Year 9, we have also asked the whole year group to test daily for the remainder of this week. The only additional change is that we will now ask students to wear masks in corridors, students will be asked to put face coverings on when leaving a lesson and when they enter a building (exemptions will apply); please can we ask that all students attend with a face covering tomorrow.

The guidance from the local health board also includes further measures that may be taken should individual schools be required to respond to an outbreak. **THIS DOES NOT CURRENTLY APPLY** to Edgbarrow, but may be useful for parents to note:

Measures may include, but are not limited to the following:

- *Increased frequency of LFD testing for staff and students (including daily testing)*
- *Reducing mixing of staff (e.g. holding meetings remotely)*
- *Reintroducing face masks in the classroom*
- *Limitation of events, such as:*
  - o Residential visits and day trips*
  - o Open days / open evenings*
  - o Transition or taster days*
  - o Parental attendance on site*
  - o Live performances*
  - o Sporting events (within or between schools)*
  - o Online learning*

We continue to monitor the situation daily and will keep you informed of any changes.

Kind regards

**Mr S Matthews**  
**Headteacher**