



Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parent/Carer

Updated Government Guidance

Please see below information concerning the increasing numbers of cases of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever which the Government have recently issued:

Back to school advice issued amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever

As pupils and students return to school following the Christmas break, UKHSA is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels.

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. **If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.**

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell do not visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

The full version of this advice can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-school-advice-issued-amid-high-levels-of-flu-covid-19-and-scarlet-fever>

We therefore urge you to err on the side of caution and request you to follow this advice, keeping your child at home if they are unwell, especially if they have a fever. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 or you suspect they have COVID-19, the advice is also to stay at home.

Please call the absence line to report any absences, advising the school of the reason for your child's absence.

If any parent/adult has flu/COVID-19 we would request that if you have to come onto the school site that you wear a face covering as advised by the UKHSA.

Yours faithfully

Jolande Botha-Smith
Interim Headteacher

