



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

Brooklands Campus: Fen Street Milton Keynes MK10 7HE

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Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

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14 September 2020

COVID-19 Update 20

Dear Parents

It was good to see all students back in school last Monday, which certainly put our arrangements to the test. We will continue to make adjustments as we go through this week but by next Monday, we should have a settled way of working.

Test results

Today we were notified that one member of staff at our Brooklands Campus has tested positive for Covid-19. This has been reported to Public Health England's Health Protection Team and the Local Authority.

We believe this case presents very little risk to anyone else in the school because the person became unwell on Sunday, 6 September and remained at home until she eventually received the result of her test on Sunday, 13 September. The person had no close contact (as defined in the guidance) with students or most colleagues. As a precaution, the colleague she worked most closely with has been asked to self-isolate and work from home. We believe no further action is needed since she has not been in school since Friday, 4 September and since then all areas have been thoroughly cleaned multiple times.

A small number of other staff and a few students have had tests and self-isolated until they received their results but none of these were positive.

The length of time it is taking for staff and students to access tests, and then the long wait people are experiencing before they get their result, is already placing a strain on the school. Unless the Government improves its testing capability this situation is only going to get worse and is not sustainable. Schools can only remain open if we have enough staff to do so safely. There may come a point in the future when some students will have to work from home if staff numbers fall below an acceptable level.

The need for social distancing

Whilst reported COVID-19 cases continues to be low in Milton Keynes ([Annex 1](#)) there could be many more cases that go unreported as a result of people not being able to get tests or being asymptomatic and not realising they have the virus.

It is for this reason that social distancing is important. All students have again been reminded that this is the way to keep their family and staff safe. The Rule of Six has been introduced by the Government from today because most transmission appear to be happening in the home. For the virus to spread in a family someone has to bring it into the home and parents are urged to continue to reinforce with their children the importance of social distancing whilst at school and when out and about.

We have started to make calls and send emails to the parents of students who are failing to abide by the school's social distancing requirements. We should be grateful if parents would explain the importance of complying with the school's rules. Students who persistently flout the rules risk being excluded.

Exclusions

Unfortunately, a number of students have already been excluded for serious breaches or repeated breaches of the school's expectations. Parents should be reassured that we will continue to take robust action to ensure Walton High remains a safe place for children to learn and staff to work.

Face coverings

These continue to be optional but students **must** follow the protocol that has been shared with them and parents. Unfortunately, some students have been sent to school without their own bottle of hand sanitiser that they must have and use every time they touch their masks. Students may purchase these for 50p from Student Services.

The use of face coverings in the corridors is being kept under review but, if students keep their distance as instructed, at this moment in time, we believe these are not necessary. However, should students not conform to expectations then this may become compulsory when moving between lessons.

We have had complaints from members of the public that some students from both campuses have been entering local shops without a face covering and ignoring requests from staff to use one. Parents are reminded that they are responsible for the behaviour of their children outside of school (and for paying any fines they may incur) as we do not have the resources needed to police the local shops.

When should I get a test for my child?

The symptoms people experience, and the severity of the symptoms, vary from person to person, especially in the young who may have no, or very mild, symptoms but still be contagious.

Government guidelines continue to state that a person should only get a test if they have one of the following symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Some other countries have also added diarrhoea to the list but, as with the late addition of loss of taste/smell, the UK appears to be behind the curve with this particular symptom.

King's College London carried out research that identified the following symptoms people who have tested positive exhibited (<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/six-distinct-types-of-covid-19-identified>)

The six clusters are as follows (a person did not necessarily have all the symptoms listed):

1. ('flu-like' with no fever): Headache, loss of smell, muscle pains, cough, sore throat, chest pain, no fever.
2. ('flu-like' with fever): Headache, loss of smell, cough, sore throat, hoarseness, fever, loss of appetite.
3. (gastrointestinal): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, sore throat, chest pain, no cough.
4. (severe level one, fatigue): Headache, loss of smell, cough, fever, hoarseness, chest pain, fatigue.
5. (severe level two, confusion): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, cough, fever, hoarseness, sore throat, chest pain, fatigue, confusion, muscle pain.
6. (severe level three, abdominal and respiratory): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, cough, fever, hoarseness, sore throat, chest pain, fatigue, confusion, muscle pain, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, abdominal pain.

For this reason, we ask parents to keep their child at home if they are unwell. However, because of the shortage of tests, and the lack of capacity at laboratories, people will only be given a test (which may be many miles from home) if they have a continuous cough, fever or loss of taste/smell.

Picking up students at the end of the day

Parents are reminded to observe the rules of the road when picking up their children at the end of the day. This means no parking or stopping on the zigzag lines or parking on Fyfield Barrow, which is a bend. The link to the Highway Code <https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/> may be useful for those parents who are unsure of what is and what is not allowed. Drivers can be prosecuted for violating traffic rules in relation to The Highway Code or disqualified from driving for disobeying them.

Wisepay

To help us limit the amount of cash staff have to handle, please top up your child's card online using Wisepay. Providing children with funds via their card rather than giving them cash also removes any incentive to go to the local shops.

On a positive note

Year 7 have settled in very well on both campuses and all years are engaging well with their learning. Most students come to school in the correct uniform and behave in a way that is a credit to their parents.

Teachers who have been self-isolating have been live streaming lessons from home and we have trialled live streaming a lesson from one room to another where the class teacher is off sick. This use of technology has gone well and has ensured students' education is disrupted as little as possible in these challenging times.

Thank you for your messages of support and encouragement, which are shared with staff and much appreciated.

Let's hope the sun keeps shining for as long as possible!

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

Annex 1

13 September 2020 at 4:00pm

Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

Cases data are available for **nations**, **regions** and **local authorities**. ✕

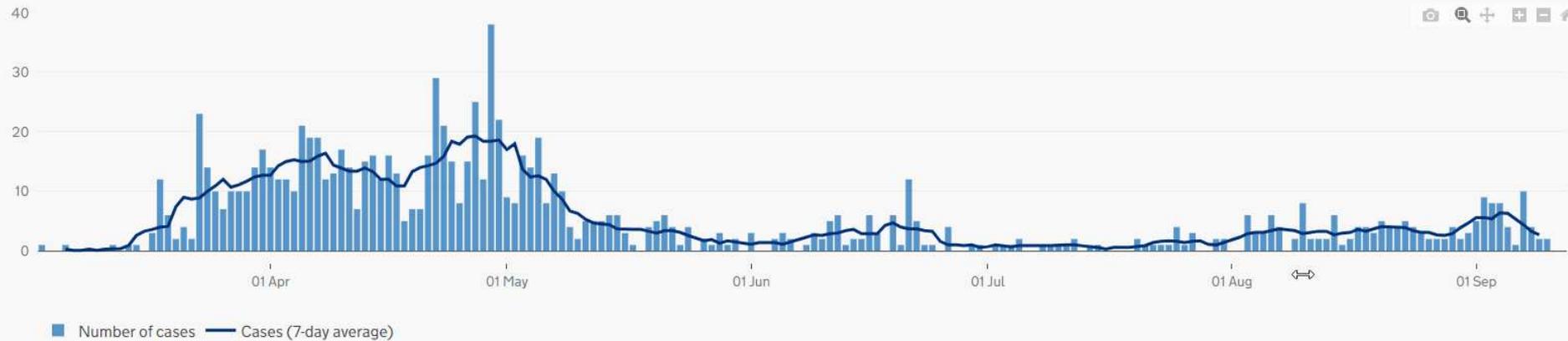
People tested positive

Daily	Total
2	1,033

Daily cases by specimen date

Number of people with at least one lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test.

Daily Cumulative Data About



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