



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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www.waltonhigh.org.uk



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Ayser Asif
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

30 October 2020

COVID-19 Update 24

Dear Parents

As well as a brief update before the start of the next half term, I am informing you that on Thursday we were notified that a Year 7 student at our Brooklands campus tested positive for COVID-19. The student was asymptomatic and in a different class to the other Year 7 at the Brooklands campus who tested positive earlier in the week. As it was more than 48 hours since the student was last in school, the guidelines state that no other students need to self-isolate.

We should like to thank parents for keeping us informed of when their children, or members of their household, have had a test and the results. This enables us to ensure that other people who may have come into contact self-isolate, which helps limit the spread of the virus in the school and local community. We have a very efficient system in place for tracking the close contacts of students and managed this without the need to employ expensive consultants!

Sharing information continues to be important with the number of cases in Milton Keynes on the rise. As the graph in [Annex A](#) shows, there is a clear correlation between students returning to school in September and the number of positive cases locally. The school's catchment area continues to experience a larger number of cases than many other areas of Milton Keynes.

How do you decide which students need to self-isolate?

We follow Public Health England guidance and the advice of the local public health team when deciding who needs to self-isolate.

Class seating plans are used to identify those students who were within two metres of the infected student from 48 hours before the symptoms began (or the test being taken if asymptomatic) to the last date the infected person was on site. This highlights the importance of parents keeping their children home if they have any symptoms, and to book a test as soon as possible, because the longer the person is on site before they start self-isolating, the more contacts they are likely to have, resulting in more students having to be sent home for 14 days than would otherwise be necessary.

From next week, students will also be asked to record the close contacts they have had within school over the past 24 hours. This will have two benefits. Firstly, it will enable us to more easily identify close contacts they may have had in their social time and, secondly, it should heighten awareness of the need to properly observe social distancing to avoid the need to self-isolate. Whilst for some, having two weeks off school may seem like a good thing, after experiencing 14 days of self-isolation once, I am sure not many will want to willingly do it a second time!

This very targeted approach may change should Walton High have a large outbreak of the virus as experienced by some other local schools.

The person my child sits next to in her/his lessons has been told to self-isolate but I haven't been contacted. Should my child stay home for 14 days as well?

No. Only people within a two metre radius of an infected person need to self-isolate. It is therefore possible that only one person sitting at a double desk falls within this zone and therefore only that person would need to self-isolate. However, should someone who is self-isolating later also test positive, your child may then need to stay home for 14 days if they were within two metres of that person.

During the time my child was asked to self-isolate, s/he has had a test which was negative, can s/he come back to school sooner?

No. The current guidance states that a person must self-isolate for 14 days because this is how long the virus can incubate in the body before becoming detectable by a test. However, this advice may change in the future.

Where will my child have to wear a face covering?

As advised in Update 23, due to the increased prevalence of the virus locally, from the beginning of next week, all students will be required to wear face coverings in the corridors and in their social spaces, including outside unless they are playing sport. Students travelling on the minibus are also required to wear a face covering.

Wearing a face covering is in addition to maintain a social distance and washing their hands throughout the day.

Students must also follow the school's protocol for wearing face coverings ([Annex B](#)) and have their own small bottle of hand sanitiser. These may be purchased from Student Services for 50p and can be charged to their payment card.

Students who are unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons will be exempt. Parents should contact feedback@mket.org.uk to apply for an exemption if this applies to their child. These students will be issued with a sunflower lanyard to avoid staff repeatedly asking them why they are not wearing a face covering. It is even more important that students not wearing a face covering keep at least two metres from others at all times.

Students not keeping the appropriate social distance and/or failing to wear a face covering when required, will have their social time removed.

My child wears a face covering in lessons, do they still have to self-isolate if someone in their class tests positive?

Yes. This is because the amount of protection a face covering gives varies enormously depending on: how well it fits; how long and often it has been worn; the material it is made from and how many layers it has, to list just some of the things that impact on a mask's efficacy.

My child has had the virus, will they still have to self-isolate if someone close to them in their class tests positive?

Due to the current understanding of how the virus is transmitted, Public Health England has advised people who have already had the virus would still need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a person who has tested positive.

Communicating test results

Please remember, to enable us to respond quickly to any **positive case** of COVID-19, we have set up a dedicated email address that will be monitored out of hours. The address is covid19@mket.org.uk. In your email notifying us of a **positive case**, please provide the following information:

1. Child's name
2. Campus
3. Year and Tutor Group
4. Date symptoms started
5. Test date
6. Test result date
7. Name(s) of Walton High students the child has had close contact with during break and lunch since showing symptoms and in the 48 hours before symptoms began
8. Name(s) of Walton High students the child has had close contact with outside of school within the 48 hours of first showing symptoms
9. Name and best contact number of person reporting the positive case

In the event of a positive result, it would be helpful if parents could ensure that the results are not shared with other students during the school day to enable us time to determine what action needs to be taken and to identify close contacts. This will help prevent other students and/or parents becoming unduly worried.

And finally . . .

The next few months are likely to very challenging for everyone. It is therefore more important than ever that, as a community, we work together to support each other in these difficult times.

Walton High's team of highly dedicated teaching and support staff will continue to do its utmost to ensure any disruption to students' education is kept to a minimum, whilst also looking after everyone's wellbeing. We cannot do this alone; the ongoing support of parents is crucial to achieving this aim and we again thank you for your continued support.

Roll on the summer!

Kind regards



Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

Annex A

28 October 2020 at 4:01pm

Cases in Milton Keynes ▾

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

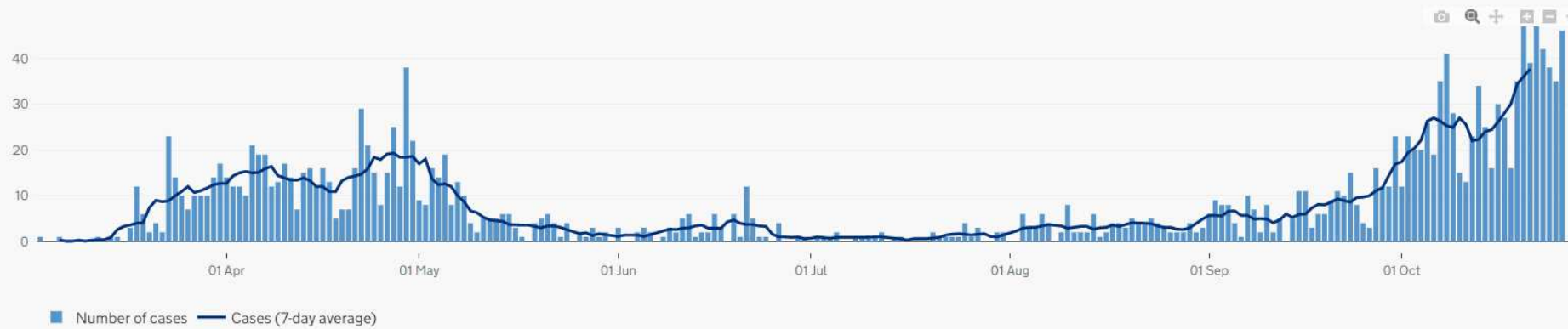
People tested positive

Daily Total
71 1,967

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

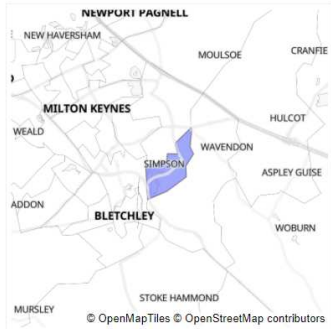


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Company number 7663689. The Registered Office is at Walton High, Fyfield Barrow, Milton Keynes, MK7 7WH

Enabling - Enhancing - Enriching

Daily update

MK7 7WH – Walnut Tree & Tilbrook



Current alert level in Milton Keynes
MEDIUM

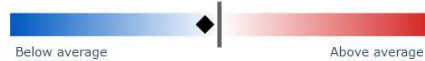
[View Details](#)

People tested positive by specimen date
Seven days to 23 October 2020

11

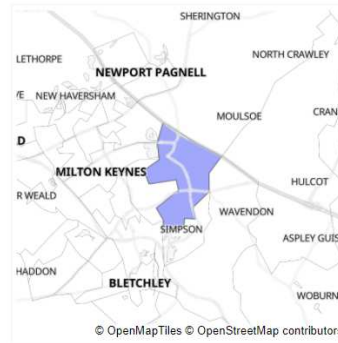
Rate per 100k resident population: **136.2**

How does this compare to England average?



Daily update

MK10 7HE – Broughton, Middleton & Kents Hill



Current alert level in Milton Keynes
MEDIUM

[View Details](#)

People tested positive by specimen date
Seven days to 23 October 2020

28

Rate per 100k resident population: **123.2**

How does this compare to England average?



Additional relevant data available for MK7 7WH:

Some data are not available at local levels — for example, healthcare data are only available by NHS region.

The latest R number for the healthcare region of East of England is estimated at **1.2 to 1.4** with a daily infection growth rate range of **+3% to +6%**.

Cases	Deaths	Healthcare	Testing
People tested positive in Milton Keynes	Deaths within 28 days of positive test in Milton Keynes	Patients admitted in East of England	Virus tests processed in England
Latest data at local authority (upper tier) level provided on 28 October 2020	Latest data at local authority (upper tier) level provided on 28 October 2020	Latest data at healthcare region level provided on 25 October 2020	Latest data at nation level provided on 27 October 2020
Daily 71	Daily 0	Daily 62	Daily 244,694
Last 7 days 304 ↑ 102 (50.5%)	Last 7 days 0 NO CHANGE	Last 7 days 337 ↑ 112 (49.8%)	Last 7 days 1,914,880
▶ Rate per 100k resident population: 93.9		▶ Rate per 100k resident population: 5.2	▶ 100,334 (5.5%)

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Walton High's Protocol for wearing a face covering

There is increasing evidence that wearing a face covering, together with social distancing, and good hand hygiene, helps to limit the spread of the virus.

Students and staff using a face covering must comply with the following protocol:

1. A face mask must cover the mouth and nose whilst allowing the wearer to breathe comfortably
2. Before putting the face covering on, the wearer must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser
3. People wearing a face covering should avoid touching the mask, their eyes, nose, or mouth at all times
4. Before removing the face covering, the wearer must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser
5. Single use face coverings must be disposed of in a plastic bag that is tied closed and disposed of in a bin - a nappy or dog poo bag is ideal for this purpose
6. Reusable face coverings should be washed between use and stored in a closable plastic bag until it has been washed - a zipped sandwich bag that can be cleaned between use is ideal for this purpose
7. Those using a reusable face covering that has a filter, such as a paper towel, should dispose of the filter in the same manner as a single use mask
8. After removing the face covering, the wearer must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser