

# Queen Margaret's

Escrick Park • York



## COVID Safe Return to School Response Plan



# Prevention & Response

## Prevention

The School has taken steps to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being transmitted amongst the QM community. These measures were outlined in broad terms in our **COVID Safe Return to School** document issued to all parents last week.

This new **COVID Safe Return to School: Response Plan** outlines our approach to dealing with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 and the implications this will have for the wider School community, as well as for parents and guardians. This plan has evolved as guidance from the Department for Education and other government departments and agencies has changed and developed, and is intended to be in line with the most recent guidance.

In order for this plan to be implemented effectively, we are dependent on knowing how parents wish for their daughters to be treated. For this reason, we have issued a **health declaration** on the Parent Portal which we have asked all parents or guardians to complete on behalf of the girls. This declaration gives mutual assurance that no girl coming into the School presents any greater risk than the next. This declaration also enables parents and guardians to give consent for their daughter to be tested should it be necessary, as well as indicating their preferred arrangements should their daughter need to isolate.

The School has designated green, amber and red zones within the Health & Wellbeing Centre (HWBC) to ensure that all girls are given appropriate safe care: 'red' isolation rooms are for girls who test positive for Covid-19, 'amber' isolation rooms are for girls with symptoms of Covid-19 and awaiting test results and 'green' treatment rooms are for girls without symptoms of Covid-19.

## Response

Working closely with our nursing staff in the HWBC, we have developed a procedure for responding to anyone in the QM community showing or reporting COVID-19 related symptoms.

The School will take the following actions when a girl becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). The approach will depend initially on whether a girl is to return home or remain at the School - this will be determined by the responses given by parents to the health declaration, mentioned above.

# WHS Test and Trace

If the national Test and Trace service notifies a girl that they have been in close proximity to an affected person then they must book a test at the earliest possible opportunity. In the first instance, the girl will be moved to an 'amber' isolation room to await testing or parental pick-up. If the girl is to return home it will be the responsibility of parents or guardians to make arrangements for a test.

In the meantime, the girl's bubble will self isolate until the girl concerned is tested. If a parent has specified that their daughter is to return home to self-isolate then arrangements will be made for parental pick-up. In this situation, when a girl returns home to isolate it will not be necessary for her familial household to isolate with her unless the girl herself develops symptoms. If the girl remains at School then she will isolate with her bubble within the boarding house.

If the affected girl receives a negative test result then she and her bubble no longer need to self-isolate. If the test is positive the girl will be required to isolate for 10 days (from the date the test was taken) and her bubble will be required to self isolate for 14 days (from the date the test was taken). When a girl returns home to isolate her familial household members will need to isolate with her.



## Protocol

### Girls with Symptoms of COVID-19 who Return Home

A girl who becomes symptomatic will be immediately moved from her class to a designated 'amber' isolation room within the Health & Wellbeing Centre. HWBC staff, wearing suitable PPE, will care for the girl and will also make contact with her parents or guardian to make arrangements for immediate pick-up. The girl will remain in the HWBC until her parents or guardians arrive.

Parents/guardians and family members will be asked to follow the [Government's stay at home guidance](#) and isolate for 14 days. The School will request that parents [book a test](#) for their daughter at the earliest possible opportunity and no later than five days after initial symptoms develop.

If the test result is negative, the affected girl and her familial household members no longer need to self-isolate and the girl can return to School.

If the test result is positive, the affected girl must self-isolate at home for 10 days and familial household members must self-isolate for 14 days from the date the first symptoms developed in the affected girl. Under these circumstances, a girl isolating at home would still be able to access her schooling via **QM Connect**.

**The affected girl must have a second test at the end of the 10 day isolation period and obtain a negative result before returning to School.**

# Protocol

## Girls with Symptoms of COVID-19 who Remain at School

A Full or Flexi Boarder who becomes symptomatic will be moved immediately from her class to a designated 'amber' isolation room within the Health & Wellbeing Centre. HWBC staff, wearing suitable PPE, will assess and care for the affected girl and will also make contact with her parents or guardian.

HWBC staff will then arrange for a test to be undertaken at the nearest NHS testing facility in Poppleton. If this is not possible, the School will arrange for a test to be undertaken by our nursing staff and for the sample to be sent to our testing partner, Yourgene.

Test results may take up to 36 hours to return; during this time, the affected girl will stay in a dedicated 'amber' isolation room. These rooms are single occupancy bedrooms that have been reconfigured to keep girls comfortable but within close proximity of the HWBC.

If the test result is negative, the affected girl and her household members do not need to continue to self-isolate. The girl may return to her boarding house and attend lessons.

If the test result is positive and the symptoms are mild, the affected girl will self-isolate in a 'red' isolation room for 10 days. These 'red' rooms are located above the HWBC and allow affected girls to be kept apart from other pupils but still receive 24/7 care from our nursing staff. Meals, medical monitoring and pastoral care will be provided to their room and lessons will be accessed via **QM Connect**. Parents will receive regular updates from the HWBC staff during this time.

If the test result is positive and if it is considered necessary by our nursing staff, then we will arrange for the affected girl to be taken to York Hospital which is located 8 miles away.

**The affected girl must have a second test at the end of the 10 day isolation period and obtain a negative result before moving from a 'red' isolation room back to her boarding house.**





# Bubbles

## Girls whose Bubble has a Suspected or Confirmed Case of COVID-19

If a case of COVID-19 is suspected (as when a student presents symptoms) or is confirmed (through a positive test result) this will lead to an affected girl's entire year bubble having to self-isolate at least until a test result is received.

If the affected girl receives a negative test result then she may return to School and her bubble will no longer need to isolate.

If the affected girl receives a positive test result then she will be required to isolate in a 'red' isolation room for a further 10 days and her bubble will be required to isolate for 14 days from the date the affected girl's test was taken. **Should a girl be sent home to isolate then it will be necessary for her familial household to isolate with her for 14 days.**

For boarders in this situation all meals, health monitoring and pastoral support would be provided to the girls' boarding houses and there will be opportunities for limited outdoor recreation. All learning would continue via *QM Connect*.

Where a bubble is isolating at the School, we may choose to test all the girls in the bubble as a precautionary measure. This testing would be conducted by HWBC staff and would allow us to determine whether there are any girls who are asymptomatic (carrying the virus without displaying any outward symptoms). Should this be the case any affected girl would be moved out of the boarding house into a 'red' isolation room where she will need to isolate for a further 10 days.

Should a girl become unwell whilst isolating in her dormitory during the isolation period, the affected girl will be moved to an 'amber' isolation room and arrangements for a test will be made. If her test is positive she will be moved to a 'red' isolation room, if her test is negative she may return to School.



### In-House Track and Trace

Should it be necessary we will also undertake our own track and trace to identify girls in the wider QM community who may need to isolate independently of their bubble. Should this be necessary, any such girl will be asked to isolate in an 'amber' isolation room or at home (depending on parent's instructions). **Should a girl in this circumstance be sent home to isolate then it will not be necessary for her familial household to isolate with her for 14 days unless she develops symptoms.**

# Bubbles - Further Protocol

## Self-Isolation whilst awaiting a test result

If a girl has symptoms of COVID she will be isolated from her bubble and testing will be accessed. The bubble will go into isolation - this can be done in School or at home - until a test result is forthcoming.

**During the week**, whilst the test result is awaited (or if it is inconclusive) the girls must remain in their self isolation bubble, either at School or, if they went home, at home. Flexi boarders have a choice, they can self-isolate at home or in School but they must not swap between the two so as to minimise movement in and out of the self-isolating group. Depending on the flexi package, parents can choose to nominate that these nights in School are to be deducted from the outstanding total of nights in that term that they have paid for as part of their package or, if they may wish to pay a supplementary fee of £57.50 per night (this is a cost only rate).

**At the end of the academic week**, if a test result is still awaited or inconclusive then both flexi and weekly/full boarders can return home if they wish. This is on the understanding that they continue to self-isolate at home over the weekend with the household doing all they can to mitigate additional contact. Providing they have no symptoms, no-one in their family has symptoms and they have self isolated at home, they may return to School to continue their academic lessons either within their boarding house (if a test is either inconclusive or positive and the need for isolating is still required) or in the classroom (depending on the test result).

**If a test is positive** the School is required to take instruction from PHE regarding isolation of girls and any additional isolation of their close contacts. This is likely to be a 14 day isolation of the year group bubble and at that point parents of boarders can decide where they would like their daughter to complete this isolation period. Unfortunately for this term at least logistics mean that we are not able to offer day pupils the same opportunity. Families of girls who self-isolate at home are not required to isolate themselves unless their daughter has symptoms of COVID-19 and therefore requires a test.





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