

COVID POLICY 9th September 2021 and this updated version 15th September 2021

Policy brief & purpose

This school policy includes the measures we are actively taking to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. Staff and students are kindly requested to follow all these rules diligently, to sustain a healthy and safe workplace in this unique environment. It's important that we all respond responsibly and transparently to these health precautions. Tobias will always treat staff and student private health and personal data with high confidentiality and sensitivity.

This coronavirus (COVID-19) policy is susceptible to changes with the introduction of additional governmental guidelines. Current information is always available at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> .

This policy update applies to students, staff, visiting tutors and all visitors. COVID-19 and its variants remain very much with us. The government advice is regularly updated and we urge everyone to be vigilant and stay abreast of government guidelines and recommendations.

As before, this advice centres on personal hygiene, cleaning, ventilation and testing as follows:

- If unwell, with the undernoted government symptoms, please do not travel to the School and follow the government's 'Stay-at-home' advice and self-isolate.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Before term starts on the 27th September 2021, students and staff should take a lateral flow test 2-3 days before and only attend if the test is negative. If positive, please email the Tobias office at info@tobiasart.com
- Thereafter students and staff are asked to take a lateral flow test twice a week and again confirm any positive tests to the office (as above) and should not attend school. (These tests can be ordered and shipped free via www.gov.uk and contain a pack of 7 tests).
- Onsite, we encourage everyone to wear masks in public areas, such as corridors, and take refreshment and lunch breaks outside wherever possible, weather permitting. (Government guidance on face coverings says it is no longer a legal requirement but '..it expects and recommends that (they) are worn in crowded and enclosed spaces..')
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available throughout the School. Please continue to avail yourself of this.
- Open windows in classroom areas, wherever possible.
- Stay safe; "Hands – Face – Space" and continue to look out for others.

- Face to Face teaching is naturally the desired method of teaching, but if a future lockdown or other restrictions are mandated by Government, other methods of teaching may become essential.

Variants:

It is important to keep updated on all variants of Covid 19. Current information and guidelines can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-sars-cov-2-variant> .

Protective Actions to be Taken by Staff and Students:

Below we outline the required actions students and staff should take to protect themselves and their peers from a potential coronavirus infection.

Sickness/symptoms

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of smell or they are advised to follow the Government's stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Self-Isolation

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to testing to arrange. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken. If you develop symptoms during this isolation period, restart your 10-day isolation from the day you developed symptoms.

You could be fined if you do not stay at home and self-isolate following a positive test result for COVID-19 or if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and instructed to self-isolate.

After 10 days, if you still have a temperature you should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. You do not need to self-isolate after 10 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

If anyone needs clinical advice, they should go to NHS 111 online, or call 111 if they don't have internet access. In an emergency, they should call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. They should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

Should staff or students receive confirmation from either the phone application or by mail that they have tested positive for COVID--19, they should go home immediately by the most direct route, leave by the nearest door including fire exits, and must not deviate from their most direct route home. If they have to use public transport, they should follow the Government's guidance on wearing face

coverings. When at home, the employee should isolate for at least 10 days and anyone in their household should self-isolate for 10 days from when the employee started having symptoms. The employee should immediately order a test via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if they have no internet access. If this test is positive, they must follow the Government's test and trace service guidelines.

If a staff member or student peer has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell with symptoms consistent with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

If that person then finds themselves coughing/sneezing on a regular basis, they should avoid close physical contact with their course mates and then follow the stay at home guidance – see above.

A deep clean of the specified area will be carried out and extended to other areas as required.

Overseas Travel

If staff or students are considering travelling abroad, they should be aware of the travel corridors that have been introduced by the Government. If staff or students visit or make a transit stop in a country that is not on the travel corridor list (which is regularly updated on the Government's website) they will need to follow government guidelines see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19> .