



## Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael, Clos Meon, Betws, Casnewydd, NP20 7DU

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Pennaeth: Mrs Bethan Parry-Jones

### To the Whole Community of Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael

As you may be aware, there have been a number of school/class closures in Newport LA towards the end of last week as a result of positive Covid 19 cases being confirmed within a household. We therefore need to work together to prevent it occurring in our school throughout the duration of this challenging period. I am sure we all agree that we do not want children being away from school due to the need to self-isolate following case upon case emerging.

Whilst at school, pupils are kept separate across the entire day by being organised into their class contact groups and accessing allocated facilities. This is in addition to a staggered organisation of the entire day.

All 'contacts' of a positive case are impacted once it is confirmed and this can have ramifications across the community, including raised anxiety of children and adults, in addition to the practicalities of running the school without sufficient staff. Although we would have access to agency staff, this is not ideal, if too many are required, in an environment where pupils' wellbeing is at the forefront of all learning and they need to feel stable and secure whilst in our care.

I am therefore appealing to all adults within the school community to demonstrate their social responsibility and to adhere to the latest restrictions as outlined by the First Minister, Mark Drakeford: <https://gov.wales/further-constraints-meeting-socially-and-compulsory-face-coverings-help-prevent-new-coronavirus>

As a member of the community of Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael, we need all our families, including those of our school-based staff, to honour the guidelines outlined by Welsh Government last Friday and play their part in social responsibility for the benefit of us all.

From today, it will become compulsory for people over 11 to wear a face covering in public indoor spaces, such as shops.

From today, only a maximum of six people from the extended household will be able to meet indoors at any one time. This rule applies in pubs and restaurants as well as in people's homes.

As a reminder to the whole school community, in order to tackle the spread of coronavirus, people in Wales must:

- always observe 2m social distancing
- wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- wear a face covering in indoor public places
- if you meet another household, outside your extended household, stay outdoors. People must not socialise with people who are not in their household or extended household.
- work from home if you can
- not travel in a car with anyone outside of your household

Over the weekend I have been involved in conversations with a number of Head Teacher colleagues from schools across the city who have received confirmation of positive cases of Covid19 and as a result, classes in their schools will be closed today.

Welsh Government are determined to avoid a blanket shutdown of schools again and I fully support this stance. However, it has become increasingly evident across the latter part of last week and over the weekend that this is heavily dependent upon the commitment of a school's whole community to 'holding this off' collectively and the school's capacity to get through the challenging period ahead with regular staff being present.

As we embark upon the third week of the Autumn Term, let's work together to safeguard the health of one another and to ensure the children are able to attend school as consistently as possible and feel secure in their lives and in their learning.

**Please notify the school of any absence via the Schoop app.**

I attach the procedures to take if there is an outbreak in school or if your child becomes symptomatic.



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Pennaeth: Mrs Bethan Parry-Jones

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Bethan Parry-Jones  
Pennaeth/Headteacher

### Procedures during COVID outbreaks:

<p>If a child becomes symptomatic during the school day with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new continuous cough</li> <li>• high temperature</li> <li>• loss or change in sense of smell or taste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents will be phoned to collect their child immediately.</li> <li>• The child will be kept isolated away from others until they are picked up from school by the parent.</li> </ul>	<p>Arrange to get tested immediately via NHS online or calling 119</p>	<p>If <b>negative</b>: child can return to school</p> <p>(Please email the results to school: <a href="mailto:ysgifo@newport.gov.uk">ysgifo@newport.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>If <b>positive</b>: Individual to self-isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms.</p> <p>(Please email the results to school: <a href="mailto:ysgifo@newport.gov.uk">ysgifo@newport.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>Household contacts of case self-isolate for 14 days</p>
<p>If a pupil has tested <b>positive</b> for COVID and this is reported to school by parent or Test and Trace:</p>	<p>The child's contact group will be notified immediately by <b>Schoop</b> that they should not send their children to school and to self-isolate either for 14 days or a number of days dependent on the day of exposure to the virus (Test and Trace will give this information to the school).</p>	<p>If your child becomes symptomatic during their self-isolation time, arrange to get tested immediately. Please notify the school of the result.</p>	