



STONYHURST COLLEGE and STONYHURST ST. MARY'S HALL

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT Effective from 9th January 2022 – 20th February 2022

(or until the publication of a further update)

Introduction and Context

As the Stonyhurst community returns at the start of a new term, we continue to face the challenges of the global Covid-19 Pandemic. Case numbers in the UK, and in many other countries around the world, have surged over recent weeks due primarily to the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant. Scientific and medical studies are suggesting this variant may not produce as severe illness as previous variants, but the UK Government believes more time is required to gather the necessary evidence to offer a conclusive assessment of severity across all population age ranges.

Stonyhurst will continue to do all that it can, “Quant je puis”, to provide continuity of education for all its pupils and will strive to ensure pupils enjoy as much of the extensive Stonyhurst experience as is safe and operationally practical to do so. Covid-secure strategies are in place to make the school environment as safe as possible and our Covid-Risk Assessments are reviewed on a regular basis. All our Covid documentation can be viewed on our website [Covid-19 Information | Stonyhurst](#)

Given the current exceptionally high rates of infection and the fast-moving nature of the Pandemic situation, it may be necessary for Stonyhurst to take operational decisions in response to daily circumstances. Some of those decisions may have a temporary impact on the pupil experience. Any such decisions will only be taken where necessary and will be taken in response to advice and guidance from the Government and other relevant national and local bodies.

Stonyhurst will always act in the best interest of the school community and will continue to communicate effectively and in a timely manner with pupils, parents, staff and with other members of the wider Stonyhurst community, as appropriate.

This document details the key Covid-19 risks identified by the school and the strategies put in place to mitigate those risks. It also includes a selection of relevant links which provide further details on the Pandemic situation including on the UK Government response, DfE Guidance for Schools, Travel to the UK and Vaccinations.

Useful Links

[Prime Minister confirms move to Plan B in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance January 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Travel to England from another country during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Continuing to keep workplaces safe from coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for eligible children and young people aged 12 to 17 \(version 3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Identified Key Risk	Risk Assessment Strategy and Mitigation of Risk
Covid-Infection spreads following the return of pupils to school at the start of term from overseas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All returning international Boarding pupils will be required to have taken two PCR tests or, from Sunday 9th, one PCR test and one LFT, prior to arriving at Stonyhurst ▪ The results of those tests will be provided to the school and logged prior to pupils being allowed to enter their Boarding House
Covid-Infection spreads following the return of pupils to school at the start of term from within the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All returning UK based Boarding pupils will be required to take a Lateral Flow test on Sunday 9th January under the supervision of a Deputy Head ▪ They will need to have a negative result prior to proceeding to their Boarding House ▪ Day pupils will be required to undertake a Lateral Flow test on campus on Monday before starting school ▪ Day and Boarding pupils will remain separated until tests are completed
Covid-Infection spreads following the return of staff to school at the start of term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff have received information from the College Senior Deputy Head and from the SMH Deputy Head on testing prior to their return to school ▪ Staff will be required to take a Lateral Flow test at least twice each week and to report any positive results by emailing the College Senior Deputy Head (for College staff) and the SMH Deputy Head (for SMH staff). Colleagues should also copy into the email their Line Manager and the HR Director ▪ To limit the impact on the operational running of the school, colleagues have been asked to give as much notice as possible of an absence in order that plans can be put in place to cover the absence with as little disruption to normal routines as possible
Supply issues with LF testing kits – inadequate number of kits available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stonyhurst currently has adequate supplies of LFTs ▪ Only Stonyhurst pupils and staff can receive LFT kits from the Stonyhurst supply, unless an authorisation has been provided by the Bursar or Health & Safety/Security Manager ▪ Kits will be kept securely and their distribution logged
Vulnerable staff or pupils catch the infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Stonyhurst Covid-19 Risk Assessment has identified risks and put mitigations in place to protect, as far as is possible, all members of the community. However, as an organisation, Stonyhurst recognises that for some pupils and staff there are enhanced risks from Covid-19 and in such cases, individual discussions have taken place and where possible additional measures put in place ▪ Concerns in relation to individual situations should be raised in the first instance for pupils with the relevant Pastoral Head and/or the Health Centre and for staff with their Line Manager and/or HR Director ▪ For pupils with special educational needs, the Learning Support Teams at College and at SMH are always available to provide a wide range of support

Virus spread - Pupils and staff catch Covid-19




- Stonyhurst has always followed Government legislation and guidance and has been mindful of all information and advice provided by a range of organisations including the NHS, PHE, HSE and professional bodies including the BSA, HMC and IAPS. Based on available advice, from the start of the Pandemic Stonyhurst has implemented measures to try and limit the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on school life, and where possible to prevent the spread of the virus. The current measures include:
 - Enhanced cleaning routines are in place
 - Sanitiser stations are available in a range of locations across the campus
 - Due regard continues to be given to the importance of good ventilation, mindful of the advice to open windows and doors where possible and to use well ventilated rooms and spaces where they are available
 - Guidance for pupils will continue to be provided on hand and respiratory hygiene
 - Regular reinforcement of Covid-safe messaging is provided to pupils via Assemblies, Tutorials, Staff guidance, Signage and Email communications
 - Secondary age pupils are required to wear face-coverings when inside campus buildings, including in all classrooms from 10th January. Exclusions to this include when eating or drinking in the Refectories and for Boarding pupils when they are in their boarding accommodation in the evenings and at weekends. Pupils or staff with a legitimate and authorised exemption from wearing face-coverings should wear the designated green sunflower lanyard
 - Secondary age pupils are required to also wear Face-coverings on public transport to and from school and on dedicated school transport
 - The on-campus Health Centre is available for medical help and advice for pupils and staff during term-time, including in respect of information about Covid-19 vaccinations
 - The Health Centre and two other designated locations are available to provide some isolation accommodation for Boarding pupils affected by the virus, but numbers of beds are limited. In the event of a significant outbreak, Stonyhurst reserves the right to use its available Boarding accommodation flexibly
 - Where necessary, the range of activities, events and visits will be limited during this half term to prevent the spread of infection
 - Meetings of staff will take place wherever possible via Teams/Zoom
 - In consultation with Line Managers, staff whose role enables them to do so, should work from home
 - Regular reviews of Covid-19 Risk Assessments will be undertaken, and senior staff will monitor the Covid-19 situation on a daily basis
 - An Outbreak Management Plan has been prepared. This is coordinated by the College Senior Deputy Head and the SMH Deputy Head and will be implemented if a significant outbreak occurs
 - Stonyhurst will always endeavour to maintain regular, effective and timely communication with members of the community, keeping everyone updated and well informed during these challenging Covid times

<p>Pupils catch Covid-19 or are required to self-isolate during the term and are absent from lessons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Depending upon age and learning profile Stonyhurst Anywhere will be available as far as reasonably practicable for any pupil who cannot attend lessons on site ▪ Relevant pastoral and academic staff will coordinate a pupil's learning during any period of absence
<p>Events, Visits, Trips and Fixtures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, the high levels of infection across the UK, and the need to mitigate the risk of an outbreak within the school, most Stonyhurst events, visits and trips will be postponed or cancelled for the duration of this half term ▪ Further information will be communicated separately in respect of sports fixtures
<p>Absence of Academic and Pastoral staff through Covid-infection and/or self-isolation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Health, Safety and Welfare of all members of the Stonyhurst community will guide decisions which may need to be made in response to staff absence ▪ Colleagues have been asked to inform Line Managers at the earliest possible moment if they are going to be absent from work. This is to enable the maximum amount of time for senior managers and HR to find alternative staffing and to make plans to cover classes and/or pastoral duties ▪ Stonyhurst has a bank of suitably qualified people, including past staff, that it can call upon in some circumstances to cover for absent colleagues. It also has positive relationships with a number of well-regarded supply agencies ▪ Stonyhurst Anywhere provides an excellent online learning platform to ensure continuity of education for pupils whose teacher cannot be in the classroom with them. Supervisors may be used to supervise classes undertaking online learning or receiving a lesson provided from a teacher from home, where that teacher is self-isolating but considers themselves sufficiently well to deliver the lesson ▪ Where appropriate, classes may be combined to enable subject-specialist teaching to be provided ▪ In consultation with colleagues, staff deployment strategies may be used to ensure cover for priority areas including Examination classes and Boarding ▪ Only where absolutely necessary will pupils be sent home, or asked to go to their designated Guardians
<p>Absence of key support service staff including Health, Catering, Domestic, Security through Covid-infection and/or self-isolation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is essential that certain key services are maintained and contingency plans are in place to keep essential services operating. However, during the current high levels of Covid-19 infection nationally, it is necessary to monitor staffing levels in certain areas very closely ▪ Where staff absence is high, those Departments will look at possible amendments to rotas and to the availability of external cover from bank or agency staff
<p>An outbreak of Covid-19 occurs at the school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The School Outbreak Management Plan will be implemented

<p>The Stonyhurst Health Centre is overwhelmed by the number of cases and need for isolation beds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whilst Stonyhurst has Theodore House and two other locations available for use as isolation centres, there is a limit to the number of beds which can be provided for pupils who test positive ▪ Day pupils who test positive would automatically isolate at home and the school may request that local Boarding pupils testing positive are enabled to also isolate at home ▪ If numbers of positive cases in Boarding were to exceed the number of beds available, the arrangements within the Outbreak Management Plan would be implemented
<p>Issues of compliance with school guidance and instruction on Covid-secure measures (Pupils)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is essential that all members of the Stonyhurst community make their own individual contribution to the safety of the school. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the school is endeavouring to find a balance between keeping everyone safe and enabling school life to be as normal as possible ▪ When instructions are given in respect of Covid-secure measures, it is crucial that everyone complies with the instruction. Issues surrounding pupils who fail to do so will be addressed initially informally and sensitively but, if necessary, unsatisfactory pupil behaviour will be dealt with under the Behaviour Policy
<p>Issues of compliance with school guidance and instruction on Covid-secure measures (Staff)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is vitally important that staff comply with Covid-secure instructions issued by Stonyhurst and set an example to pupils ▪ Where non-compliance is identified, initially an informal approach will be made to the colleague involved, but if it becomes necessary, breaches of Covid-security will be addressed via the Disciplinary Policy

Signed:

Effective date: 9th January 2022

	<p>Stonyhurst Headmaster</p>
	<p>SMH Headmaster</p>
	<p>Chair of Governors</p>

