**HOMESTAY COVID-19 GUIDANCE**

The Coronavirus pandemic has touched us all, and it is likely that it may go on for some time to come. The impact to our business as we are reliant on overseas students is grave and as a result, the impact to our school, our staff, and our homestay hosts, have been greatly affected but there is nothing more important than keeping safe right now.

We believe it’s critical to do our part to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 while protecting daily life and livelihoods.

**OFFICIAL REOPENING**

As we prepare to open on 4th May 2021, Westbourne Academy have been closely monitoring guidelines for international travellers which at present requires internationals entering the UK to take a test before leaving their country, as well as on their 2nd and 8th day after their arrival. However, we are keeping an eye on any chances that may occur with the pending ‘traffic light’ system.

We aim to ensure that none of our students and homestays are putting their health and wellbeing at risk, and will therefore re-open in line with government advice to limit the spread of the virus, we have put together some of the useful guidelines we recommend everyone to follow and to help your concerns about the Covid-19. We hope that this will bring reassurance to you and your families.

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Westbourne Academy has made sure we provide an environment as safe as possible for our students and staff and any visitors at WA.

There is a detailed risk assessment available of our daily procedures for anyone entering the building. We will continue to provide advice for our students when they are outside the school. The main emphasis will be on social distancing and ensuring frequent washing of hands and wearing of facemasks, we will however, take on board all government advice as it is updated.

All students and staff are asked to take a COVID test twice per week; this is to ensure we provide a safest environment possible for our students and staff.

From 9th April, everyone in England is to be given access to two rapid coronavirus. You can find more information about this here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. This is something that you may wish to consider as a household.

**ONCE OPEN**

Westbourne Academy will constantly be monitoring our school and students for current health updates however, we would ask you to keep us updated in the case that you receive any information about the health situation of anyone in your household. We will inform you accordingly in case of any event changing the school routine for the students, and ask our homestays to be flexible and understanding as we realise the importance of community at this difficult time.

**KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE**

Please help yourself, family, students, and us by doing your part and following [government guidelines](https://email.ameristudent.com/e2t/c/*W6gWdYy4Gx8gGW2MwRj34SQbR70/*W4JVTGy884Jp0W4lKL7m45K04z0/5/f18dQhb0S5fr8XJ9qWW7RdwQM50RnyCVpT2V14cynBkW1FSlTG56qZCNVcnTGj992gLmW4vgnvf4vx1WDW98RG7B96dDSGW5CqBkG97QLGjW5wpzvf2mWhp2W5rG63Q57mD5lW9bTNXY953-jPW5ZpycS57-ZBTW83C5JP1Z66s1W83KHrF7J39pBW2przrY6W3RDgMHd1gPz74JcVYSX-57m_B1RW5c8d-S377W0SW4s2GbD5Xtf-pW5vG8K22h63trW1mwp_V5WFvVRW5W1f1L15QdkmW2-r2xq64xsT5N4sdC2YPcJdvW973x0k7Z57sfW6NKn_37Z5kBGW3L3cNB2JgWkmW1pcxKY5sG5QmW42zmw3373fjpW5Xs_wJ49kJ93W6fVSyW1Q68w6W1MMh8v7Z1QZTW1r6vZc8zt-MxW1rfhL68y_wYGW5Mqp5g19rc8kW7qqS-L8mFTvFW7B7kx01tPFknW7hqTm05d0lPmW3f5--q6hYyZnVrVprC56gBW-W2rpvPQ2dmM9Y0) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

* Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and warm water, wash for at least 20 seconds, making sure to also wash your fingertips.
* Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-90% alcohol.
* Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away. If you don’t have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
* As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
* If your student is sick, please keep them home and stay in touch with your doctor, making sure to abide by the advice given.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAY GUIDANCE**

* **Daily Routines**: Please begin planning how your daily routines will support your future students and Westbourne Academy. (e.g. washing hands before meals, doing individual clothes washes, sanitiser available around the home etc)
* **Open and Consistent Discussions**: Homestay providers are encouraged to have open and consistent discussions with their student(s) regarding the developments of the virus in their community. The more you talk with your student and ensure clarity on the factual developments of virus’ effects and recommendations from the government/NHS, the more they will develop a healthy sense of well-being, precaution, and safety. Additionally, engaging in an open conversation about your family’s new routine around the home as well as leaving the home for activities, shopping, school and work.
* **Understand Cultural Differences**: As we try to limit the spread of Covid-19, please keep in mind there could be a high degree of confusion, concern, and worry from your student regarding our government and NHS guidelines. Therefore, it’s important to have empathetic discussions about the protective measures you will take in your daily life, both inside and outside of the home and ask them to follow the same procedures.

**IT’S RECOMMENDED THAT ALL STUDENTS**

**Do**:

* Wear a facemask when travelling.
* When going out, practice Social Distancing of at least 2 meters apart.
* Limit exposure by crowded public areas.
* On entering home or school, wash or sanitise their hands immediately.
* Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
* Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away. If you don’t have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
* Place all used glasses/crockery and cutlery in the home in dishwasher immediately after use. Or wash up where a dishwasher is not available.
* Wipe all surfaces being used for food and drink after use. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces around the home.
* Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
* Clean and disinfect sink, bath/shower and toilet after use.
* Put all rubbish/tissues in bins.

**Don’t:**

* Shake hands or breach the 2m recommended distance.
* Have guests or visitors over to your home (until restrictions allow)
* Touch your face.
* Phone the doctor/111 if you aren’t sick.

As the situation evolves, Westbourne Academy will continue to work hard to ensure regular communication with the appropriate authorities, follow any recommendations issued, and keep you informed of any new developments for the safety and well-being of international students and our homestay hosts. As always, your continued support, collaboration, and understanding are greatly appreciated as everyone works to navigate the circumstances.

We look forward to the coming months where we can hopefully begin to resume some normality, by welcoming students into our school and your homes.