

Examinations 2022 - Covid-19 self-isolation

Dear Parent/Carer

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The Welsh Government has updated its guidance on self-isolation related to Covid-19.

The link below can be used to view the guidance.

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation>

The guidance makes specific reference to requirements relating to candidates sitting GCSE, AS, A level and vocational examinations.

Please see the extract below from the guidance:

"We want to enable learners to take their exams, well and safely.

- If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and take a lateral flow test (LFT).
- If the test is positive, you should self-isolate for at least 3 full days. Day 1 is the day after your symptoms started. **Please report your result.**
- On day 3, if your symptoms have stopped, take a LFT. If that test is negative, take another LFT on day 4.
- If your day 4 test is also negative, and you feel well and do not have a high temperature, you can leave self-isolation to sit your exam. **Please report your results.**
- If either the test on day 3 or the test on day 4 is positive, you should remain in self-isolation and contact your school or education setting.
- If you still have a high temperature or feel unwell, you should continue to self-isolate until it returns to normal, or you feel better.
- You should continue taking daily LFTs until you get 2 negative tests in a row, taken a day apart, or until day 10 – whichever is sooner. You do not need a negative LFT test on day 10 to leave self-isolation."

As a result of these updated regulations, it is possible that an individual pupil might be required to self-isolate during the exam season. Therefore, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has updated its procedures relating to exams taken in Wales.

The JCQ points to the range of measures that have been put in place this summer to support candidates taking exams.

These measures include:

- generous grading in comparison to the June 2019 examination series;
- a minimum of 10 days between the first and last exam in each GCE AS, A level and GCSE specification.

This will reduce the chance of a candidate missing all examinations in a subject because of illness.

As is normal in a standard exam series, candidates are expected to complete exams to receive a grade. Therefore, it is extremely important that candidates attend school for their exams.

However, there may be **exceptional** circumstances where this might not be possible, for example through having to self-isolate because of Covid-19.

If this is the case, an application to the exam board can be made for **special consideration** for an acceptable reason. This will enable a grade to be awarded through the special consideration process, even if an exam has been missed.

Procedure

If a candidate is unable to attend school for an examination because of self-isolation they must contact the school and inform staff that they are self-isolating in line with Welsh Government Guidance. In this case parents/ carers and candidates will be asked to complete relevant sections of the JCQ Self - certification form for candidates who have missed an examination. This will be discussed with any candidate who is in this position at the time.

The **minimum requirement** for a candidate to receive a grade through this process in 2022 is where eligible candidates have completed and submitted the assessment(s) for **at least one** whole unit within the specification.

A grade **will not** be awarded where none of the formal awarding body set exams/ assessments have been completed by the candidate and submitted by the school.

The exception to this relates to GCSE separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). This year there is only one assessment (an exam) for these subjects. This means that if a candidate missed one of these exams, the special consideration process described above could not apply and a grade could not be awarded. To overcome this problem, the WJEC exam board has put in place contingency arrangements, in the form of a contingency exam paper for each of the three

subjects. Therefore, if a candidate misses one of the separate science exams, they must sit the contingency paper.

The dates for these exams are:

GCSE Biology - 22 June PM

GCSE Chemistry - 23 June AM

GCSE Physics - 23 June PM

Additional information

It is important to note that the procedures outlined above are only to be used in exceptional circumstances. The JCQ makes it clear in the guidance that where the school suspects the authenticity of the details provided by a candidate in these circumstances, the school should investigate the matter as suspected malpractice.

Candidates must be aware that their results can be withdrawn, or they can be disqualified if they provide false information on eligibility for special consideration.

We wish all our GCSE and AS/A Level pupils and students the best of luck in the forthcoming examinations.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior Leadership Team