



Advice to Parents – Coronavirus Message ‘stay vigilant’

14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are asking all the community to be hyper vigilant during the last days of term, as cases in the area have significantly risen.

If you have any symptoms (see below) then you must get a test. Note that the Lateral Flow tests provide a tool for asymptomatic cases but their reliability is somewhat limited. We have had member of the local community testing negative on a lateral flow and positive on a PCR the next day. So, if in doubt about your child’s health then get a PCR test.

The school will not admit children who appear unwell and/or require intimate medical care.

Please Note: test centres are currently being overloaded and people are finding that they cannot get a test the same day. In these situations, a Covid-19 test case can be ordered, though the test result feedback will take a little longer to get back.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, then they must obtain a PCR test and must NOT come to school.

Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and NOT leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your ‘Support Bubble’.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the local community

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- HOWEVER, although not on the government website, BBC News and Public Health advisers report that the new Delta variant symptoms in young people are headache, sore throat, runny nose and generally feeling unwell.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading and managing the situation at home and school

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

What if my child is in self isolation for ten days – are they allowed out of the house?

- No there is a clear duty for those members of the public/pupils who are in isolation NOT to leave the home.
- Those in isolation should consider themselves potential spreaders of the infection and must stay at home for the ten-day period. If they develop symptoms then they must be checked with a PCR test.

Are there any steps I need to take before my child returns from self-isolation?

- If your child has been symptom free then they may return on the date provided (see above)
- We recommend a lateral flow test is given to all children who have been in isolation the night before they are due to return to school to check for asymptomatic cases.

What about the rest of the school who have carried on while others are in lockdown?

- All existing bubbles are currently secure and so no further action is required that is not otherwise covered in our whole school risk assessment, which is available on the website and has been previously issued to parents.

What if my child becomes unwell?

- Any child who is unwell with symptoms linked to the new virus will be sent home by the school and parents will need to get them a PCR test.

What if staffing levels are affected and the school is unable to operate safely?

- If staffing levels present a safeguarding risk then the class or the school itself will turn to remote learning in accordance with Public Health and DfE advice.

There are repeat cases at the school – should the school continue to be open?

- The school is in daily contact with Public Health, who are helping us to monitor the situation. Though we have had an outbreak in school this week, we are aware of the source and it is under control, with any identified groups or affected individuals in isolation.
- Despite the rising cases, the school is considered to be safe and we are allowed to remain open, based on our current circumstances and the existing control measures we have in place.
- The situation will continue to be reviewed daily and parents kept up to date.

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

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