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small community **thinking big**

3rd November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Continuing Advice to All Parents

We have been advised by Public Health England that there were 17 x confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school setting during last half-term. This is three times more than in the whole period since the pandemic started! We also know that rates of infection, hospital admissions and COVID related deaths are slowly but steadily increasing.

It is our express goal to continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe, but also to **keep our school open** and to minimise the amount of time students are not able to attend school. To achieve this, we need *your* continuing help.

If you think your child is a close contact of someone who has Coronavirus but has not have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), please do not send them to school, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If the child has a positive PCR test result but do not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) or by calling 119.

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.

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread. As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school or public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in regular LFD testing (we continue to do this every week in school)

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

If you develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test and follow the guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

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

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 years and over can now receive a vaccination. If you've already had your vaccination then take up the offer of a booster when invited to do so
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- try and meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places and on transport

Further Information

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

Kind regards,

Tim

T S Stokes

Headteacher