



Covid-19 Cases in School

16.11.2021

Dear parents/carers,

As you know the rate of covid-19 remains high in the area at present. As a school we have 9 PCR/LFT confirmed cases in total. We have at least one confirmed case in C1, 2, 3 & 4 – most cases are in C2.

Logistically the measures we put in place have worked well yesterday and today – sincere thanks go to all the staff team for being so flexible and making changes so swiftly. Thank you parents too – I know staggered drop off/pick up are difficult for some of you.

A parent asked for a reminder of the procedure of what to do if a child had a covid-19 symptom so please find these outlined below.

- If your child has one of the three recognised covid-19 symptoms (see below), please do not bring them to school. **Please seek a PCR test (not a lateral flow test).**
- Please keep your child off school/self-isolating until you have their test results back.
- Please e-mail a copy of the test result to Mrs Birch – whether it is positive or negative. If you have not done this yet, please do so as soon as possible.
- If your child's test is negative, your child can return to school straight away (if your child is well enough for school).
- If your child's test results are positive, your child will not be able to return to school for at least 10 days after symptoms started/until the date NHS Test and Trace give you.
- For a few children taking a PCR test is traumatic - we understand this. If your child is unable to take a test and they have a covid-19 symptom they will need to stay off school for 10 days in line with guidance.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We understand that we are in flu/cold/cough season. If your child has a covid-19 symptom a PCR test will distinguish between covid-19 and these other illnesses which are common at this time of the year.

Our local public health team have sent us the latest information for parents – please see this at the end of this letter - it covers what to do in common situations in relation to covid-19.

With many thanks for your continued help and support in this matter.

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher

Advice to All Parents - warn and inform

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been advised by the Local Health Protection Team that there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school setting.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with the Local Health Protection Team. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Students and staff who have tested positive are isolating. The small number of children/staff who are identified as contacts of the confirmed case will have guidance from NHS test and trace and will be advised to take a PCR test. We further advise they take voluntary daily LFD tests until the outcome of their PCR test is known. Outbreak control measures are also in place within the setting and being kept under review.

The school setting remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace then they should take a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19) or by calling 119. **When ordering a PCR test it is important to check the box (online) or tell 119 ‘I’ve been told to get a test by my health protection team’ and not ‘I’ve been told to get a test by my school or nursery’.** Further guidance can be found at [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

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 your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known and they are fever free (without medication) for at least 24 hours.

- If negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to school once well;
- If positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

If the child has a positive test result, but does 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 <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing, **advised to take extra caution**, and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#). If you, or any other household members, attend early years or educational settings, we recommend you undertake daily LFD

testing whilst you wait for the PCR result. This is recommended for staff, secondary students and primary students at their guardian's discretion.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as a household contact of someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read [the stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts 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 community.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

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 (when not in school)
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in [regular LFD testing if aged 11 years old and older](#)

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

If you are a health or social care worker or student undertaking a work placement who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance](#) available that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

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](#).

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 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 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now
- 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
- 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
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

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