



Thursday, 10 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Subject: COVID19 Guidance

I wrote to you on Monday to let you know that there were children from our school who were being tested for COVID 19.

The majority of these test results are now back and I am pleased to let you know that they are all negative.

Unfortunately, some of our families who were tested on Monday are still awaiting their results and other families had difficulties booking a test and were therefore delayed in their efforts to get a quick result. I am sure that you are aware of the well documented challenges being faced currently with the high volumes of test taking pace. It is unfortunate that this leaves families waiting at home for their results and means that I am delayed in being able to reassure you all or share with you any actions that we may need to take.

As I have said before, I continue to take and follow guidance from Public Health England whenever I am informed that a child is showing symptoms. Currently, the advice for our school remains the same that there is no need for classes to close whilst we await test results.

Current Procedures and Guidelines

There are 3 Main Coronavirus Symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – please note, this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature as this is considered unreliable).
- **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 that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

You do not need to have all 3 symptoms to suspect that you may have coronavirus. Even if you have 1 of these symptoms, you **MUST** isolate at home with the members of your household and arrange for anyone with symptoms to have a test.

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Arranging a Test

You can arrange to have a test by either going online to <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name> or by calling 119. Please note that the Local Authority advises you to keep trying to get an online appointment for a test as new places are being continually released.

What to Do Next?

You and the members of your household need to stay at home and await the test result. Once test results are known, you must inform the school.

Positive Result

Following a positive test result, you will receive a request by text, email or phone to log into the NHS Test and Trace service website and provide information about recent close contacts.

The tested person must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started. After 10 days, if they still have a temperature they should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. They do not need to self-isolate after 10 days if they only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

Other Household Members

All other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

Negative Result

If the test result is negative, the household can stop isolating immediately. The person who has been tested can also stop isolating if they feel well enough.

The school informs Public Health England of all suspected cases of COVID 19 and shares the outcomes of tests. Public Health England will then advise the school of what actions it needs to take should there be a positive result which I would then communicate to you all.

I hope this offers some clarity around the current situation. Any updates to this guidance or procedures will be communicated to you as they occur.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Musty
Headteacher

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