



13 November 2020

Advice to All Parents – Covid-19 - Single case

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been made aware of a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. 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.

The four people who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that they must stay at home for 14 days.

The Academy remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19?

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. 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 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. 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.

The 14-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. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

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>

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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)

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

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

- 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

Why is the Academy remaining open if there is a suspected/confirmed case?

The advice from Public Health England is that schools can remain open providing that anyone that has been in close contact with a confirmed case self isolates for 14 days. This reduces the risk of cross transmission and means a school can remain open providing it is deemed COVID secure. If a school develops multiple cases where cross transmission is a factor, then Public Health England will advise if a partial or full school closure is required.

Is the Academy being deep cleaned?

As part of our COVID secure procedures we have put in place additional cleaning routines throughout the day to ensure that high contact areas are regularly cleaned. Each evening the school is being cleaned more deeply than usual to prevent the virus remaining present on surfaces. As a final precaution where there is a suspected or confirmed case the area affected is isolated and then cleaned in line with guidance from Public Health England. All these measures ensure that the school does not need to close to be cleaned.

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What additional measures are the school taking to prevent COVID-19 from spreading?

We have already put in place a series of measures to limit the risk of COVID-19 being spread within the Academy. This includes additional hand sanitizer stations throughout. We have also put in place more regular and deeper cleaning regimes as well as signage to ensure movement around the school is done in a way that maintains social distancing where possible. Students are working in Year Group bubbles that are designed to stop the transmission of COVID-19 across the wider school. Classrooms have also been rearranged to avoid students sitting directly face to face and being in close contact with each other. Whilst it is not possible to ensure 2m distance at all times the other measures in place reduce the risk of transmission when contact is less than 2m, it is therefore important that students regularly clean their hands throughout the day as this is the most important way to control the spread of the disease.

How do bubbles work within the Academy?

Bubbles are ways of reducing transmission of COVID-19 by minimising contact between students to essential groups only. Your child has been allocated to a bubble as necessary for the delivery of the curriculum. Where a COVID-19 confirmed case occurs we will risk assess with Public Health England whether students need to be self-isolated by individuals, classes or year group bubbles depending on the circumstances of the case. Teachers can operate across different bubbles; however, they should always remain at least 2m away from other staff and students when teaching to avoid any close contact with others.

What should I do if my child has been in contact with someone that is self-isolating?

If your child has been in close contact with a person who is a confirmed case, we will notify you accordingly and ask your child to self-isolate for 14 days. If your child has been in close contact with someone that is self-isolating as a precaution (and has not yet tested positive) then your child will not need to self-isolate as it is most likely that the person who is self-isolating will be infectious whilst they are at home (should they develop the disease).

If my child is asked to self-isolate, do they need to keep self-isolating if they receive a negative test result?

If your child is asked to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with a confirmed case they must remain in self-isolation until the end of the 14 day period, even if they test negative during the 14 days. This is because even if you test negative you still may incubate the virus later in the isolation period. Should I be worried about my child getting COVID-19 For most children and a significant proportion of adults, COVID-19 appears as a mild illness that does not require any specific treatment. If in the rare case your child does develop more serious symptoms you should contact 111 for further advice.

What will happen if I do not send my child to school as I am worried they may be infected?

Since September the usual rules on school attendance apply. Unless you are notified that your child needs to self-isolate, they should continue to attend school as normal. If we believe that your child may have had close contact with an infected person and needs to self-isolate we will provide remote learning to them to undertake at home for the period they are self-isolating providing they are well.

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How can I help to prevent COVID-19 spreading within the Academy?

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the Academy you should remind your child of the importance of good personal hygiene and social distancing. You should try and ensure that they wash their hands before leaving home and on arrival back. You should also try and limit social gatherings outside of school in line with the current government guidance. Most importantly you should not send your child to school if they have any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above and instead arrange for them to be tested at the nearest testing centre.

Further Information

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

Yours sincerely

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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