



Advice to All Parents – Covid-19 - Single case

18 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been advised that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within The Bourne Academy.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health Dorset and BCP Council. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

All close contacts of the confirmed case have been identified and asked to self-isolate. Unless you have been specifically notified that your child is a close contact, you do not need to take any further action at this stage.

The school remains open to children of critical workers and vulnerable students and, providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal, if they are attending this provision. We will keep you informed should anything change.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **you should organise for your child to be tested** via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. Your household should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear.

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

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

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of following the key public health measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our school and the wider community.

- Keep your distance from anyone who isn't in your household or support bubble

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS | Tel. 01202 528554 | admin@thebourneacademy.com

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- Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds or more
- Wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces
- Self-isolate with your household and arrange a test if you have symptoms
- Take part in the Academy Lateral Flow Testing to identify asymptomatic cases

Flu vaccination

We would also encourage you and your family to have the flu vaccination if you are eligible for this, especially if you are in a risk group. You can find out about risk groups and whether you are eligible for a flu vaccine at the [NHS Flu vaccine overview](#).

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 to children of critical workers and vulnerable students providing that anyone that has been in close contact with a confirmed case self isolates for 10 days. This reduces the risk of cross transmission and means a school can remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable students 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.

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. Students are also to wear face coverings when moving around communal areas of the Academy.

The Academy is also undertaking Lateral Flow Testing of staff and students on site. We would encourage all parents/carers to give consent for their child to be tested as these tests can pick up those who are asymptomatic and help stop the spread of covid-19. More information about Lateral Flow Testing and a copy of the consent form can be found on our website, [here](#).

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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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