

17th January 2022

Advice to All Parents - warn and inform Yr 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of a positive Covid-19 case in your child's class and that the child is current isolating. We are in communication with Public Health England, and they direct our responses.

The government classes the risk to children as low and the Department for Education states that your child should continue to attend school unless they are showing symptoms, test positive or if they have been instructed to isolate by test and trace. It would be advisable for you to carry out a lateral flow test with your child each day for the next 7 days as a precaution and measure to avoid further spread of the virus if you are able to source these tests.

Please be cooperative and not aggressive with staff if you are called to collect your child because we have observed them showing one of the three main covid symptoms in school. We appreciate this is an inconvenience especially to working parents and we only call you if we absolutely have to to keep your child and other children safe. Your child will need to take a PCR test in this instance as a LFT is not sufficient. If you do not wish to take a PCR they will need to isolate for the full 10 days before returning to school.

Please monitor your child for the symptoms below and do not send your child to school if they begin to show symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure their 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 they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this means they have told you that they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child begins to show symptoms, then please book a PCR test for them online at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

Please be assured that we continue to follow all the guidelines from Public Health England and the guidance issued by the Department of Education with regard to how educational settings should handle the current situation. The guidance is updated frequently and we will continue to communicate this to parents by letter/newsletter/parentmail. This is so that parents always have easy access to the most up to date information available.

Regular handwashing remains an effective way of avoiding picking up any virus and our toilets are checked regularly to ensure that there is adequate soap, and hand sanitiser is distributed throughout the school for children to use. We are ventilating rooms with outside air and CO2 monitors are installed in our classrooms. The daily cleaning routine in the school ensures that high contact areas, such as door handles and bannisters, are disinfected regularly.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tracy Lane
Head Teacher

Further Information on Preventing the Spread of Covid 19

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

From 14 December, anyone aged 5 years and over who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate is now strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people.

If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting or workplace. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Children aged 4 years and under do not need to take part in daily testing as contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

This advice is in addition to the changes introduced on 16 August 2021. You are not legally 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 let you know that you have been identified as a contact and 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 and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

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 household contact of a 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/college/childcare/education setting 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 14 December

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 taking daily LFD tests for 7 days, 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/college/public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable

If you are a health or social care worker or a 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 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now and 16-17 year olds are being offered 1 dose of the vaccination by 23 August
- 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/>