

Outbreak Letter for School – Advice to Parents

Dear Parents/Carers

I apologise for the delay in writing to you on this occasion.

Unfortunately I received, early Tuesday morning, confirmation that another member of our school community had tested positive for COVID 19. In light of that and the fact we had a significant number of staff unable to attend work due to instruction to self-isolate, I made the decision to 'close the school' for health and safety reasons.

In line with Government Guidance, we have contacted the families of the children and the staff who are affected to tell them that they need to isolate for 14 days from when they last had contact with that person.

If you were NOT contacted yesterday in relation to this then your child has not been affected.

Yesterday afternoon, I attended a virtual meeting, where the risk assessment processes and the current situation at the school was reviewed by an external infection control consultant. The meeting was rigorous. The consultant was satisfied with the procedures in the school for safe working. He did offer some further suggestions that we will be implementing immediately. These are staff related, as the national data suggests, they are at most risk of infection in the work place.

The recommendation is to remain closed this week and review again at the weekend. Friday is considered to be too early to make that definitive decision. This gives time to see if there are any further positive tests within the school community.

All being well, from Monday 23rd November 2020, we will begin to re-open to children based upon the number of staff we have available to work on site. This will be a measured and staged approach, as I am very aware that this is an extremely worrying time for everyone.

It was made very clear to me in the meeting that due to the high infection rate in the city at the moment, there will be more positive tests and staff and pupil absence as a result. I need to make sure that I can do all I can to avoid a full closure again.

The school site is fully closed until Thursday. On Friday, a team of cleaning staff will be on site conducting a full deep clean in all areas of the school, including residential and the CLC Annexe. I will be speaking to Public health at the weekend, although if there are any changes over the next few days, I will be working with them

You will be contacted over the next few days in preparation for re-opening. A text will be sent out on Sunday to confirm arrangements.

I would like to remind you once again, if anyone in your family develops symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus, can you please let us know? Jo, Jayne and Leanne are available on their work phones and they will be able to quickly get a message to me.

I have, again, added some additional information at the end of the letter for you, but if you have any worries, please contact us and we will do our best to help you.

Thank you all for your support. I appreciate it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel M. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rachel Davies

Headteacher

Additional information

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'. Further guidance 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>

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. 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 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, 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

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, 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 NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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

Do

- 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

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>