

23 October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to inform you that a Year 8 student has tested positive for Covid-19. You will appreciate we are unable to share any further personal details, and I ask that families are sensitive to this, particularly on social media. I would like to reassure you that we have worked closely with the Local Authority Public Health Team and Public Health England and the Local Authority, who are happy we have taken all reasonable infection prevention and control measures in school.

This letter, written in conjunction with the Local Public Health Team, 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.

As soon as we were made aware of the situation today (Friday, 23 October) we sought specific advice from the Local Authority Public Health Team and Public Health England and are following the given advice with the actions outlined in this letter.

The small number of students and staff who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case **have already been contacted directly by the academy**, will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days.

Thanks to procedures introduced at the academy the school remains open and your child **has not** been identified as having had close contact and therefore **your child should continue to attend** 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'.

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>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill (when the symptoms started).

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. You can contact Sheffield City Council for support with tasks like shopping medication and social contact on 0114 273 4567.

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.

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 or anyone in the household 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/>

Thank you for your continued support and understanding, it is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Andy Downing
Principal