



12th November 2021

Dear Parents,

We are navigating a challenging period with Covid-19 (and other winter viruses) at the moment. Life continues relatively normally beyond the school gates but, whilst Covid cases and rates across the South West are falling, they remain high in schools.

We have had a number of positive Covid cases in our school community over the last few weeks so we have put some additional mitigation measures in place in order to minimise the spread of infection and maintain good quality face to face education.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health Wiltshire. 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.

Students and staff who have tested positive are isolating. The small number of children who have been identified as contacts of the confirmed case will have guidance from NHS test and trace and will be advised to take a PCR test. Outbreak control measures are also in place and being kept under review.

The school remains open and, providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review.

Pupils who are household contacts of a positive case, including those in Primary settings, can take daily LFD tests whilst awaiting PCR results. If negative they can remain in school.

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. Fully vaccinated adults, children and young people aged below 18 years and six months do not need to isolate as close contacts of someone with symptoms, or as a close contact of a confirmed case, but are advised to take additional caution.

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.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

We are keen to ensure education can continue; and we wish to advocate the following measures you can take to help reduce the risk to 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](#). 12–17 year olds are also offered one dose of the vaccine. [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for eligible children and young people aged 12 to 17 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **if you're symptomatic** - Isolate and get PCR test
- **if you think you are a close contact** - get a PCR test
- 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
- clean surfaces often, paying particular attention to surfaces touched often (e.g. light switches, door handles or electronic devices)
- Keep indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period per day
- **consider your social contacts** – every contact carries a COVID risk, even with vaccinated people so:
 - consider whether to meet up at all
 - 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
 - Reduce the time spent in crowded areas where it may be difficult to social distance
- 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>

As you may know, the UK Health Security Agency (formerly PHE) has been made aware that some areas are reporting positive LFD test results with subsequent negative PCR tests.

The UKHSA investigation led to a test lab being temporarily closed. All affected test participants are being contacted by National Test & Trace should they still be within their infectious period and need to retest.

National guidance is clear, that if people still feel unwell after a negative test, they should stay at home until feeling better. When people test negative via a PCR test but go on to develop COVID-19 symptoms after the test they should take another PCR test. Please also see the following for further information.

Further Information

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



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<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

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

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/test-results/negative-test-result/>

Yours sincerely,

Jo Hodge

Headteacher