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Date: Monday 26th October

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public Health England that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working very closely with Public Health England. We were informed this morning that one pupil and one staff member had tested positive and we immediately contacted Public Health England for advice – on what action should be taken by the school. The pupil who tested positive developed mild symptoms late in the evening of Wednesday 14th October and was last in school on the morning of Monday 19th October. Therefore the 14-day isolation period from the last date of possible contact is from 19th October to 1st November. The staff member developed symptoms late in the evening of Friday 23rd October and has not been in school since that date.

The DfE guidance states that close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The small number of children who have been in direct prolonged close contact with the confirmed pupil case have been emailed an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days. No pupils have been identified as close contacts of the staff case.

- The pupil case is in year 11 - this is a single case in this year group.
- 43 Year 11 students have been asked to self-isolate. We have contacted all of them. If you have not heard from us, then you are not affected. The students who have been asked to self-isolate will return to school on Monday 2nd November.
- The staff case is a non-teaching staff member.
- 7 staff members have been asked to self-isolate who have been identified as being in close contact with the positive case. We have contacted all of them and they will return to school on Monday 9th November.

As a school, ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and the wider school community has been our absolute priority. As a result, we have closely followed all Government guidance and have implemented all possible safety measures and protocols to ensure everyone's safety and to limit the transmission of any virus.

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->

homeguidance/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, 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 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 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/>

Yours sincerely



Mr R Mann
Headteacher