



Alder Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr R O'Regan BSc (Hons) NPQH

13th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Notification of positive case of Covid-19 in Year 9

We have been advised of a positive case of Covid-19 within Year 9, following a lateral flow test at home. We are awaiting the result of a PCR. If the PCR test comes back negative, we will let you know, and the following will no longer apply.

We have followed the advice and guidance of Public Health and carried out careful analysis to identify potential close contacts. If you have received an official text message from school, to advise you that your child may have been in close contact with the affected person and should **self-isolate at home**, this letter will advise you what you need to do.

- **Period of self-isolation:** From Tuesday, 13th July up to and including Friday, 23rd July
- **No longer required to self-isolate:** Saturday, 24th July
- **Return to school:** after the summer break

Your child must not come to school before this date. Your child will be able to access their learning online, they will be familiar with how to do this. The work will be accessed through Microsoft Teams. A video showing how to access Microsoft Teams can be found on the [Home Learning page of the school website](#).

Updated advice from Public Health – please read carefully even if your child has been identified as close contact in the past.

Students who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 can now get a PCR test (not a lateral flow rapid test) during their 10-day self-isolation period, whether or not they have symptoms. Around 1 in 5 people who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 will go on to have COVID-19 themselves, and around 1 in 3 of those will have no symptoms but can still spread the virus. Getting a test when you're a contact helps to find if you're one of those people and, if so, to ensure your contacts are self-isolating. This is how we break the chains of transmission. Even if you test negative, you will still need to complete your 10-day self-isolation period, because the virus can incubate for that time.

To reduce the risk of further transmission and identify any further Covid-19 positive residents, Public Health England are now requesting all identified contacts, including school bubbles, organise a PCR test. Please book a test at <http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus> or call 119.

You may be eligible to claim for a test and trace support payment. More information is available on this link: <https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>



Self-isolation and household isolation

At this stage, siblings and other household members do not need to self-isolate unless **any of you** develop Covid 19 symptoms. Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the self-isolation period.

The following is information from the national guidance and applies to your child:

- If you have been informed that your child is a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for Covid-19 medical advice is clear: your child must immediately self-isolate at home for 10 days from the date of their last contact with them. There is no requirement for other members of your household to self-isolate unless anyone in your household starts to develop symptoms.
- Your child must not attend school.

If your child or any other member of the household develops Covid-19 symptoms **all members of the household should self-isolate immediately**. You should arrange for a test for your child online or by phoning 119. Please contact school if you are having difficulty accessing a test. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

[Link to the national guidance: Covid 19 stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.](#)

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

However, many young people report non-traditional symptoms and generally feel unwell or just under the weather.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice online from [NHS 111](#) 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:

- 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/>

We understand that this disruption is far from ideal especially as the children will now not return to school this term, but I am sure you appreciate that we have to follow clear procedures in light of a positive case. Together, our actions will be in the best interests for the health and safety of the school and wider community.

Yours sincerely,



R O'Regan
Headteacher

