



# Alder Community High School

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

25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Notification of a positive case of Covid-19 in Year 11**

We have been advised of a positive case of Covid-19 within Year 11, following an asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid test taken at home. We are awaiting a confirmatory PCR test to confirm this as a positive case. If the PCR test returns a negative result, we will let you know, and the following information 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 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, up to and including Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- **No longer required to self-isolate:** Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April
- **Return to school:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, following the Easter break.

If your child does not develop symptoms of Covid-19 they can continue to carry out their twice weekly lateral flow test at home. A negative test does not mean that they can stop self-isolating or return to school earlier.

If your child develops any symptoms of Covid-19, even mild ones they should take a PCR test at a test centre. Do not use the lateral flow home tests in this situation. If your child subsequently tests positive during the period of isolation, please inform school so that we can monitor any potential outbreak.

## **Home learning during self-isolation**

During their period of self-isolation 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](#). Depending on the number of children affected, there may or may not be live lessons offered. Your child should check their school e mail account each morning. If your child is having trouble accessing their home learning, please contact school for support.

## **Free school meals and financial support during self-isolation**

If your child is entitled to receive a free school meal, please contact school arrange for a packed lunch to be provided each day.



Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities. [Parents and carers should apply to the local authority to receive a payment using this link.](#)

### **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, 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**

