



18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **COVID 19 cases in School**

During the course of this week we have been informed about a number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Year 9. This has led to a significant number of the year group and a small number of staff being identified as close contacts and having to self-isolate at home. I appreciate that this may be concerning and wanted to reassure you that we are continuing to work closely with the Public Health team in York to monitor this situation and respond to it appropriately. Public Health advice continues to be that it is safe for your child to attend school as normal unless they have been asked to self-isolate or develop symptoms of COVID-19.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have followed Department for Education guidance about control measures and actions we should take in response to positive cases of COVID-19 and have been guided through this process by the Public Health team. Given these recent cases are all from one year group we have worked closely with the team to ensure that our actions continue to be appropriate and proportionate.

In response to these positive cases we are continuing to identify close contacts of individual positive cases and ask them to self-isolate rather than take any wider action. This approach has been taken to reduce the chance of transmission of COVID-19, but also to maintain in school teaching for those students who haven't been identified as close contacts. It is possible that whole Year group bubbles could be closed and all students asked to self-isolate, but with the agreement of Public Health we do not believe this is an appropriate action at this stage. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and if we have further positive cases of COVID-19 we will consult with colleagues in Public Health about whether or not we should change our approach.

Within school we will continue to operate with the control measures we have been using this academic year, but wanted to remind you about some key information about COVID-19 and actions you should take if anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19.

#### **Home Testing**

In particular I would like to remind you of the importance of carrying out home testing with Lateral Flow devices. The Secretary of State for Education has written an open letter to all parents/carers today asking for their support with this. A number of the cases we have had have been asymptomatic and have only been identified because of regular testing. This has allowed us to identify close contacts quickly and hopefully reduce the transmission of COVID-19 to other students and their families. The school will continue to provide lateral flow devices to continue with twice weekly home testing if consent has been provided. As a reminder, these test results must be reported via the NHS test and trace system in line with the instruction booklet provided, but please also report the result to school each time using the Google form link:

<https://forms.gle/1gUDh8KbnTKeSfjc8>.

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**HEADTEACHER:** Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

**DEPUTY HEAD:** Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

**DEPUTY HEAD:** Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

***“Working together to achieve success”***

## **What to do if anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19**

If anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19 they 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.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-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 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, you can 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

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-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)

## **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If anyone in your household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about someone'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/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt  
Headteacher