



Kirkburton Middle School

Turnshaw Avenue
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
HD8 0TJ

Telephone: 01484 222737

Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

Email: office@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk
Web: <http://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk>

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Dear Parent/ Carer

This is a courtesy letter to inform you that over the weekend we have received news that further members of our school community have tested positive for Covid 19. Those people who may have been a close contact with the confirmed cases have been directly notified and asked to self-isolate.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and working closely with Public Health England. 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.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal.

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-home-guidance/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.

Confidentiality:

As anyone who has been contacted by Test and Trace will testify, the identity of anyone who has tested positive is confidential. Whilst we appreciate that there may be some degree of curiosity, I would ask that **parents do not engage in speculation** around who may or may not have tested positive for Covid 19 - particularly on social



media platforms. Although I am sure there would be no malice in this, it can cause distress and upset to those involved and could ultimately deter people from testing. It is incredibly important that everyone who has symptoms seek a test and isolate, alongside their household, until the test confirms they do not have coronavirus, or follows the guidance should they test positive. It is a responsible thing to do to seek a test and follow this process, as by doing so, people are protecting others.

The process:

When we are notified that a member of our school community has tested positive, we make contact with the individual or their parent/carer to assess close contacts as defined by the Government in the 48 hours prior to symptoms or a positive test result in the case of asymptomatic cases. This would include anyone inside of school, at social times, as well as pupils who may be affected outside of school hours including walking to and from school or travelling on the bus.

We then review seating plans and subjects taught during that two-day period. Some subjects, such as practical subjects, mean that pupils will have had wider social contacts. Once we have the list of those affected, we contact the Local Authority and Public Health England, who provide the final advice as to who needs to self-isolate and agree the dates. We use email to contact the parents of pupils who need to isolate as this is the quickest way to inform families of the situation. Since September, the advice and guidance has been continually refined, but the school always makes this decision under the advice of Public Health experts.

Can I thank you for your ongoing support and please contact school if you have any questions. Please be aware that we may take longer than normal to respond at this moment in time and we ask for your patience and understanding with this.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher

Yours sincerely

