

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Whilst the school community continues to have no confirmed cases of coronavirus, we feel it necessary to write to you once again to update you on how we are responding to last night's new government guidance.

The government are now asking anyone who shows certain symptoms to self-isolate for **14 days**, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means they want people to stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 14 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms to slow the spread of infection.

Individuals should self-isolate for 14 days if they have a high temperature (37.8 degrees or above) and/or a new continuous cough.

In response to this new guidance, we would ask that if your child currently has or develops a cough and/or a high temperature that you keep them off school for 14 days (10 school days) from the onset of these symptoms. You need to contact school on the first day of absence and we will mark your child as absent from school due to illness for the next 10 school days. You do not need to subsequently contact us daily to report the absence in these circumstances. If your child requires further time off after the initial 14 days, please contact us to update us.

If you have previously reported your child as absent due to a cough or high temperature and we have advised you not to send them back into school for 7 days, we now do not expect them in school for a further 7 days. We will update our registration records accordingly.

The government has also requested that if one person in a household displays these symptoms, everyone in the home should self-isolate for 14 days. We will therefore authorise the absences of all siblings, regardless of whether all siblings are symptomatic.

Absences for other reasons (not caused by a temperature or a cough) should continue to be reported on a daily basis and learners should return to school as soon as they are well enough.

The government have advised that you do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 14 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Clearly we would also ask that families keep us informed if there are any circumstances that we need to be aware of relating to their child or themselves so we can take the appropriate advice and action as required.



Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

You will also find plenty of advice and guidance online at: www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19, www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>.

Should you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Jones
Headteacher

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