



Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Families,

RE: COVID-19 Track and Trace during Christmas Holidays

We're almost at the end of a really challenging term for the whole school community! We're exceptionally proud of how well our learners have re-engaged with their education following such a long period working from home and learning in the context of COVID-19.

As we approach the end of term, and with the Department for Education having now issued guidance, I thought it appropriate to write to families to provide them with an update on how school will continue to manage and respond to confirmed cases of coronavirus within school that are reported over the Christmas holidays.

Whilst school will close to all learners at on Friday 18th December for the Christmas holidays, myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team will continue to respond to and action any confirmed cases of coronavirus in the school community which are reported up to and including Christmas Eve. In so doing, we will follow our usual process of identifying the confirmed case's infectious period, identifying any close contacts during this period and notifying the families of close contacts via text and email of the need for their child to self-isolate.

After school closes at 12:15 pm on Friday 18th December, families should notify school of any positive test results via the school's dedicated email address:

[**covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk**](mailto:covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk)

Whilst the responsibility for track and trace passes to the NHS's Track and Trace teams from Christmas Day, families should continue to notify school, via the above email address, of any test results.

Families will be aware that there has been much media speculation about the school holidays being extended to limit potential disruption caused by COVID-19, however the Department for Education has been definitive that all schools are to remain open as normal. Consequently, all learners should attend school as normal next week.

To limit potential disruption to families and staff over the holidays as a result of a confirmed case of coronavirus, can I encourage all families and learners to stick to the following:

- **Do not attend school if you are unwell.** Normally we would encourage learners to be resilient and attend school even if they are a little under the weather. But next week I would

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encourage learners not to attend school if they are at all unwell (cold, sore throat, headache, etc.).

- **Wash your hands frequently.**
- **Wear a face covering** in communal areas of school and on public transport.
- **Keep your social distance** as best you can.
- **Stringently follow the Tier 3 restrictions:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

We hope our whole school community has the safe, happy and healthy Christmas that we all deserve after an exceptionally difficult year. We look forward to seeing learners back in school in the New Year.

Should you have any concerns about the above then please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

With very best wishes,

Dr Michael Potter
Education Welfare Manager

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