



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Good afternoon

The start to the academic year has been a very positive one and the vast majority of our students have been absolutely brilliant in dealing with the changes the current situation brings. It has not been easy, but I feel that everyone is now adapting to the new demands and we appear to have happy and stable environments in our schools.

However, a number of people have been asking me what will happen if there is a positive case in a year group or more than one positive case in a year group. I understand why people are asking these questions as more and more schools are seeing positive cases and the overall case numbers are rising.

The simple fact is that I am unable to give a definite answer to this as each situation is handled differently. Should a case arise we will inform Public Health England (PHE) and be guided by their advice.

There are a couple of things that I can say with certainty. If we are alerted to a positive case we must inform PHE if they have not told us. There are then a series of steps that we must take working under PHE guidance. One of these steps is to work out which staff and pupils have been in contact with the person with the positive case that will be close contact and a wider form of contact.

Once that information has been found and shared, PHE will then advise us on who needs to be sent home to isolate and this could be a whole year group, who needs to be advised to go for a test and who is able to come back into school. In our only positive case so far, only a small number of pupils had to be sent home to self isolate and everyone else was able to stay in school. None of the students who were required to self isolate became symptomatic.

The other things I can say with certainty are that we will not share the name of the positive case or the year group they are in, unless the whole year is sent home. Furthermore, we have subject work set up ready for pupils to do online if students have to be at home.

At this moment no member of staff has yet tested positive for Covid 19. However should that situation arise we again would liaise with PHE and follow their advice.

I suppose all any of us can do is ensure that we take all the precautions that we can to avoid catching this virus and the slogan of 'hands, face and space' must be followed as best we can.

I hope this helps with some of your questions, but rest assured should a positive case be identified in the Federation we will follow all the procedures and guidance so that all our members are as safe as they can be.

Yours sincerely

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher