

September 2020

Very important letter – Please store in a prominent and easily accessible place

Dear Parents

I am writing to advise you of the procedures Selwood will follow if a confirmed positive case of coronavirus arises or a suspected case is identified. Given the size of our school community, it is likely that we may have positive cases that arise during the winter months and it is therefore very important that everyone is aware of the steps that we will take. You will be aware of schools in Somerset who have already had positive cases identified and the actions they have made as a result. It is important that we all understand and can follow the advice in these three contingencies:

Contingency 1: a suspected case

The key symptoms remain as follows: a high temperature, a continuous cough and/or a loss of sense of smell/taste.

1. If the symptoms arise at home, your child should stay at home.
2. If the symptoms arise at school, your child will be isolated, you will be contacted and asked to come and collect them as soon as possible.
3. You should request an immediate test and your child **should remain at home** until results are received to determine next steps.
4. All other members of the household should self-isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result is received.
5. If the result is negative, your child can return to school when well and the household can leave the house.
6. All other children, except those in the household, should attend school until the test result is known.
7. If the test result is positive, we move to the next contingency.

Contingency 2: a confirmed case

When we have a confirmed case, we should all act as follows:

1. The child with the positive test should remain at home for at least 10 days from the day that symptoms started. If they remain unwell, they should continue to stay at home.
2. The household of that child should self-isolate for 14 days from the day that symptoms started. If any other member becomes ill, they should request a test.
3. We will work with the local health protection team/D of E to identify all of the close contacts of that student. This will include children in the same class(es) and other individuals that they have had close contact with. It could include the whole year group in certain circumstances.

‘Let your light shine before others’ Matthew 5 v 16

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Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment

4. All close contacts will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days. This may include teachers as well as students.
5. Work will be set in line with their normal timetable.
6. Households of the contacts sent home do not need to self-isolate unless an individual in that household develops symptoms.

Contingency 3: more than one confirmed case

If we have more than one confirmed case, we will act as follows:

1. Any individual with a positive test should isolate for 10 days.
2. The household members of any positive test should self-isolate for 14 days.
3. All close contacts will be sent home for 14 days.
4. Where children are asked to self-isolate at home, work will be set according to their normal timetable.
5. We will work closely with the local health protection team/D of E to help identify those infected and to plan for the appropriate steps. This could include a mobile testing unit being placed on site.

I am sure that you will appreciate that there is the potential for substantial disruption to the way the term operates. A 14 day period of isolation is a significant proportion of a term and, the greater the number of infections, the greater the risk that some pupils could be asked to undertake this isolation on more than one occasion. I am also acutely aware of the significant difficulties families face across the UK in accessing tests and the length of time it is taking to receive results.

It is important to understand that it is contacts of positive cases that are required to isolate. If you are in a household with someone who has had a positive test or been in close proximity with a positive case for a **sustained period of time**, you must isolate. However, contacts of contacts do not isolate. Households of those students sent home can still go out and/or go to work provided that individual does not develop symptoms.

That is why it remains very important that the children follow the hygiene guidance that they have been given; this will be emphasised at the start of term. Equally, children must stay within their year group bubble where possible to reduce the number of 'contacts' that they have.

Alongside this, we understand the need for continuity of education. If pupils are isolating we will continue to provide work for them, which will be assessed, details as to how this will be achieved will be found shortly on a designated section of the school website.

The school will not share personal medical information about individuals. There is a danger, when we have a positive case, that speculation could take place about a pupil or their family. I would ask that everyone is aware of the duty that they have toward each other, particularly in social media. Speculation or discussion about an individual should be avoided wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Jean Hopegood
Headteacher