

13th September 2021

Advice to All Parents/Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have been notified of some confirmed cases of COVID-19 within The Stanway School within both the staff and the student community. This includes cases from all 5 year groups. It appears the cases are in greater number due to staff and students testing with Lateral Flow Devices at the weekend ready for Monday morning, and is not indicative of a daily figure.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation with the support of the Local Authority. 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 young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

NHS Test and Trace will undertake contact tracing and may contact you to inform you that your child has been identified as a close contact. In line with the latest government guidelines that were released in August 2021, identified close contacts who are under 18 years and 6 months of age, do not need to self-isolate. Instead, they are advised to get a COVID-19 PCR test.

If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace your child should continue attending school and you should arrange for them to have a PCR COVID-19 test. Only if this test is positive or your child is displaying one of the three COVID-19 symptoms do they need to refrain from school and self-isolate.

If your child does test positive for Covid-19 they should stay at home for the 10-day isolation period and the school will arrange remote education so that they can continue their learning, if they are well enough to do so. Remote education will not be extended to children who are absent for other reasons.

We will continue to review our risk assessment and outbreak management plan and adhere to the protective measures in place at school. These measures include hygiene and cleaning measures and keeping spaces well ventilated.

Secondary school students and all households should continue to test twice weekly at home, as you have already been doing. If you receive a positive result from a lateral flow test, you should seek a PCR as soon as possible and then follow the isolation guidance as above.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID19

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 day after their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should

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seek a test and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Household members no longer need to isolate if they are under 18 years of age or are double vaccinated.

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 10-day period starts from the day after the first person in the house became

ill. **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Bland
Headteacher