

Friday, 11th September 2020

Reference: Covid19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the light of some recent clarification from Public Health England and Public Health Warwickshire, I thought it would be useful to share some of the information with you to support your decision-making when your child, or members of your family/household, feel unwell. It is sometimes a challenge to decide on a regular cold or cough relative to one indicative of coronavirus and so I hope the following will be of some help.

It is important for us all to remember and reassure our children that for them, coronavirus is a mild illness. Nonetheless, we need to remain vigilant and act accordingly to ensure the health of our whole community.

We have a four-step process to tackling Coronavirus:

- 1. Avoiding those with symptoms and keeping the risk of transmission to a minimum.** We need to prevent Coronavirus coming to school. We need to keep to the national guidance to prevent our children passing on the virus and catching the virus. Like every autumn/winter, there are many illnesses which are going to be circulating this term, but it is more important this year that if your child is unwell **with coronavirus symptoms**, to keep them home until they have been tested. Likewise, if you or anyone in the household is unwell **with coronavirus symptoms**, do not send your child into school until they/you have been tested.
- 2. Getting tested.** If your child or anyone in the household is showing coronavirus symptoms, arrange to have them tested immediately. **If in doubt, test.** Anyone with coronavirus symptoms **must test negative before returning to school.** If your child is positive, inform the school immediately and continue to keep your child at home.
- 3. Identifying and isolating contacts of positive cases.** If your child has symptoms, we need the test result, positive or negative, to enable us to assure our community that we are doing all we can to prevent the opportunity for the spread of coronavirus in the school. As soon as we are informed someone has tested positive, we will be swiftly isolating close contacts. If your child needs to self-isolate as a close contact, they should isolate for 14 days – the household do not need to isolate unless your child themselves develops symptoms.
- 4. Keeping risk of transmission to a minimum.** As soon as we are informed of a person positive for Coronavirus in school we act immediately. We identify all close contacts of that person and inform them not to come to school/ send them home to self-isolate for 14days. This prevents the virus from spreading in school.

When we get two individuals who are positive in a school community (within 14 days), we class the situation as an outbreak. In all cases so far in the County, this second case has occurred in a close contact of the initial person who was already self-isolating when they developed symptoms.



Schools are being advised on a number of measures:

- Ensuring that social distancing is used at every opportunity
- Reminding pupils around good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene “catch it, bin it, kill it”.
- Keeping children in bubbles or groupings such as form groups, we minimise the close contacts children can have.

On the following pages I have attached two flow charts that we are finding especially useful when making decisions, as well as the NHS definitions of the three main symptoms of coronavirus.

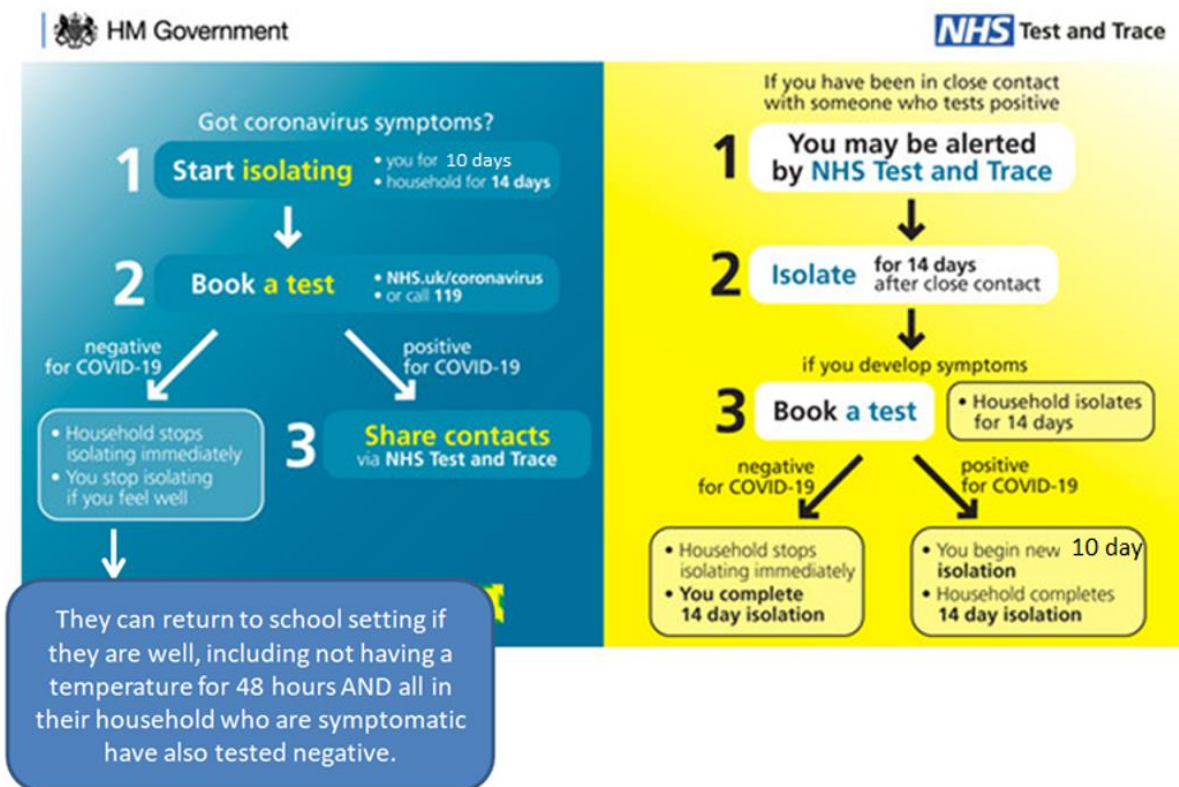
I hope this letter and the flowcharts are of some help and support you to feel confident when making these important decisions.

It goes without saying that if you are in any doubt, please just call us and we will do all we can to advise you.

Once again, thank you for all your support and patience while we are establishing our systems and adjusting to this dynamic situation.

Best wishes,

Mary Gray
Head of School



Main Symptoms [\(NHS U.K.\)](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to have thermometer to measure your temperature)
- **a new & continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to you sense of taste or smell** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Situation	Isolate
1. I have tested positive for COVID-19	Yes (for 10 days, +48hr after temperature resolves)
2. I have developed symptom and not tested yet.	Yes (until you test negative, if the test is positive see above)
3. I have been told I am a close contact of a case	Yes (for 14 days, unless you develop symptoms and test positive, then see above)
4. A house hold member has developed symptoms and has not tested yet.	Yes (until they test negative, if test is positive isolate for 14 days)
5. A household member has been told to isolate as a close contact.	No. (be vigilant, if they start to feel unwell you will need to isolate until they test and its negative)
6. I visited someone, within 2m, who has now been told to isolate as a close contact.	No. (The person was not symptomatic, if within 48 hrs of the visit they develop symptoms and test positive follow number 3.)
7. I am a close contact of someone who tested positive, I've got tested however and I was negative.	Yes (for 14 days, unless you develop symptoms and test positive, then see above)
8. My sibling in another class and needs to self isolate due to a COVID-19 positive case in their class. I am in a different class	No. (They are not themselves a close contact of a positive case, if their sibling develops symptoms they will need to isolate)
9. My nan is unwell and I saw her 2 days ago.	Maybe. (Need to check if the nan had COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test result and whether they were a close contact. If they were none of those then no. If they test positive then follow number 3.)