

13th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that your child has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

In line with updated advice, we are taking a precautionary approach and are considering all confirmed cases of COVID-19 as potential existing or new Variants of Concern, for example the variants that originated in India or Kent. **These variants are of concern because they are more transmissible than the original strain and may spread to others more easily.**

It is very frustrating for us to have to send the class home so soon after they have just returned from isolating and we are aware that it will be highly inconvenient for you and disappointing for your child.

We are in this position on this occasion because unfortunately a parent did not follow the guidelines advised in this letter. Please do read them carefully and if in doubt seek advice either from the school or the NHS.

What has the school done?

A full risk assessment has been carried out. We have followed the national public health guidance and have identified that your child has been in close contact with the affected person.

PCR testing is **now required for all identified close contacts** of confirmed COVID-19 cases. In line with the national guidance, your child must now:

- Stay at home and self-isolate for ten full days after the date they were last in contact with the person who tested positive
- Arrange a PCR test as soon as possible (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) and
- Inform us of the result when received.

However, anyone who has received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days are advised not to retest as results may not be accurate.

Please note, your child still needs to complete their 10-day self-isolation even if their PCR test result is negative.

This means your child can stop isolating at 23:59 on 22nd July and return to school on the last day of term 23rd July 2021.

If their PCR test result is positive, they should remain self-isolated for at least 10 full days **from the date of the test.**

What do you need to do?

- Your child needs to self-isolate for 10 full days. They should not leave your home except in exceptional circumstances, for example for a medical emergency or to avoid a risk of harm.
- They cannot go to school or public areas. People can become infectious up to 2 days before symptoms begin and they could spread the disease to others if they do not go into self-isolation.
- Your child should try to avoid contact with vulnerable family members as much as possible.
- Other members of your household do not need to self-isolate during the 10 days if your child does not have symptoms and can continue normal activities.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19 during their self-isolation?

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, they should remain at home for at least **10 days from the day their symptoms started** and book a PCR test (regardless of having already taken one during their self-isolation period). All household members must also immediately start 10-day self-isolation and cannot leave the home.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house showed symptoms of COVID-19.

Please be aware that lateral flow tests (rapid tests) are not appropriate for anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 – and can also not be used by primary-aged children or younger.

If the test result is negative – your child must continue to self-isolate until the end of the original 10 full days, as they could still develop COVID-19. The rest of the household can stop isolating, unless someone gets new symptoms.

If the test result is positive – your child must self-isolate for 10 full days from when their symptoms started. The rest of the family will also need to self-isolate for 10 full days from when your child's symptoms started.

What to do if your child does not develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the 10 days?

Your child needs to stay at home for the full 10 days because it can take 10 days for symptoms of COVID-19 to develop. If your child does not stay at home, there is a chance that they could pass on COVID-19 to someone else, even if they feel well. Even if they never develop symptoms, they can still be infected and pass the virus on without knowing it.

If your child is well at the end of the 10-day period of self-isolation, they can return to usual activities.

Your child's class teacher will resume remote learning, so please support your child to engage with this. If you have any difficulties in accessing the work please email your child's class teacher through the class email, or phone the school office and we will arrange for a member of our staff team to contact you.

We know that this is a difficult time for families and thank you for your support as we work to keep our school and wider community safe.

Yours sincerely,



Hina Shah

Headteacher.