



Bassingbourn Village College

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Ms V Poulter
Principal

Dear Parent/Carers,

We have been informed this morning that a member of our community has tested positive for COVID 19. The identity of the positive case is confidential but I can confirm that it was a member of the teaching staff. I appreciate that there may well be some anxiety around having a confirmed positive case, but I would like to reassure you that we have been rigorous in our actions.

Be confident we are continuing to monitor the situation and as you would expect, we are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and to provide you advice on how to support your child. I do feel it is important to remember that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Any member of staff or child who has been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) has received a letter informing them that they must stay at home for 14 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. This morning we have introduced the wearing of face masks for staff and students when moving around the site, both inside and out. This decision was following guidelines brought in last night, however I feel this is another level of protection our community can take at this time to keep us all safe. I request that while this is not mandatory until Monday, that you support our decision to implement this immediately and send your child in to school with a face mask.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

To remind you, 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 date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

It is important that all other household members who remain well, stay at home and do not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

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)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> 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

Ms V Poulter
Principal