

14 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Today we were informed of a positive home covid-19 test for a Year 9 student. The student is taking a PCR test and the result will be known shortly.

I am pleased that the family followed the government guidance precisely in order to protect our community.

As a result of our processes we have swiftly been able to identify students who have been within 2 metres of the student for more than 15 minutes and therefore who needs to self-isolate in line with the guidance until the PCR result is known. If the PCR result is negative, the students will be able to end their period of isolation.

We have telephoned parents and carers. These students will access their remote learning from today on Teams.

To date we have had a very low number of cases compared to many other secondary schools. Our infection control measures and the seriousness with which our students and staff have treated these have allowed us to keep our community as safe as possible.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. All students and staff, regardless of year group, should remain vigilant regarding COVID-19. All parents are advised to continue with the routine twice weekly asymptomatic LFD COVID-19 testing of those ages 11 and above in the household.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they need to stay at home and self-isolate immediately and get a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Your household needs to isolate too. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

If your child tests positive, your child and household need to continue isolating for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared (or date of their positive test if they do not have symptoms). Add your child's details to NHS Test and Trace and inform the school/educational setting so that other close contacts can be identified and advised to isolate.

The isolation period includes the day their symptoms started and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month, the isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th. In the absence of symptoms, the isolation would start from the date of the test was taken and continue for ten days after this. If the person does not have symptoms when testing positive but goes on to develop symptoms, the isolation is extended for ten days after the onset of symptoms as explained [here](#) (in the "if you tested positive" section). If other household members become unwell they need to extend their isolation period.

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms and does not get tested they will need to isolate with the household and support bubble for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

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 10 days, will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able to 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.

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-COVID-19-infection>

What to do if your child / family member tests LFD positive

If someone in your household receives a positive LFD test, you should get a PCR COVID-19 test as soon as possible. The person testing positive should isolate with their household following the [stay at home](#) guidance. If your child tests positive with an LFD or PCR test you must inform the school so they can start contact tracing.

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 but not all 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-coronavirussymptoms/>. 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:

- 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.
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following [national guidelines](#) (recommended for 11 years and over).

Further Information

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

Further information on rapid lateral flow tests are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Guidance in different languages: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Thank you so much for your continued support. To date our actions and measures have ensured that all students and staff have remained as safe as possible and it is imperative that we continue to be vigilant to protect students and staff while they are on the Oakmoor site so that we protect ourselves, our families and the wider community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hemmings', written in a cursive style.

Mr P. Hemmings
Headteacher