

28 June 2021

Dear parent or carer,

I hope my message finds you safe and well.

I am writing to let you know that a member of staff has received a positive COVID-19 test result from a home test kit issued to the academy by the government.

Unfortunately, your child has been identified as having been in close contact with the affected staff member, meaning that we must ask them to self-isolate for a period.

We completely understand that this news may cause concern. However, we must stress that your child is being asked to self-isolate only as a precaution in line with the national guidance.

How long must my child self-isolate for?

This depends on the outcome of a confirmatory test to be taken by the affected staff member.

The government has advised that anyone who receives a positive test result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test taken at home must self-isolate and take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result.

Almost all positive LFD results are confirmed on PCR, however a small minority are not. For this reason, until the affected staff member receives their confirmatory result, we must ask your child to stay at home and self-isolate as a precaution.

If the confirmatory test comes back positive

If the staff member's confirmatory test comes back positive, this will confirm the original result.

This means the staff member and your child must self-isolate for 10 days up to and including 4th July, so can return to school on Tuesday 5th.

If the confirmatory test comes back negative

If the staff member's confirmatory test result comes back negative, the test did not find COVID-19. This means the staff member and your child can return to the academy provided they are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

What happens next?

We will contact you to confirm your child's return date as soon as we have the details of the confirmatory test. In the meantime, it is incredibly important that your child remains at home during their period of self-isolation.

Remote education arrangements for pupils

We have plans in place which mean that your child can continue their learning without disruption whilst they self-isolate. They will have daily contact with their teachers and will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects in line with their academy timetables where possible.

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

If you or someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible – further information can be found [here](#) or by calling 119. Please do not use a home test kit as this is only for people without symptoms.

If you or someone in your household or bubble should subsequently test positive, you should all self-isolate immediately, staying at home for at least 10 days from the date when symptoms first appeared.

Please click [here](#) for Public Health England's 'stay at home' guidance.

Symptoms of COVID-19

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

The most common symptoms are the recent onset of:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- High temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the NHS by clicking [here](#) or by calling 119.

Financial support from the local authority

If need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating, you may be eligible for financial support through the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme.

If you are eligible, you could receive a £500 payment in addition to any benefits and statutory sick pay. To see the full eligibility criteria, visit the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme page at www.gov.uk.

If would like to apply for support, please note that you must provide a copy of this letter to the local authority and that we will be contacted to verify the information you provide about your child.

Keep in touch with us

We can prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our academy and wider community through regular testing of pupils and staff and by continuing to implement our robust safety measures. Our priority remains the health and wellbeing of all our children and staff.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and ask that you please get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs M Lathbury-Cox
Headteacher