

'Do Everything In Love' - 1 Corinthians 16 v14



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23 November 2021

Advice to All Parents in Year 1

Dear Parents

I have been contacted by Public Health England this morning who have issued the school with some updated advice due to a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our setting. Their advice is set out in the letter below. Following my conversation with them I have been requested to put several additional measures in place in school as follows:-

- *Reintroduction of use of the Entry and Exit gates when dropping off children.*
- *If you must come inside the school building, please remember to wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser at the door.*
- ***Class 1 will go straight into school at morning drop off. Please drop your Year 1 child off at the Reception gate at 8.30am.***
- *Please continue to follow good hygiene procedures with your family at home as well as within the school setting as this is really important to slow the spread of the virus.*

There have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within your child's year group within our school setting.

We understand that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Wiltshire Council Public Health team. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. **Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

The school setting remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well and are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms. All parents are advised to continue with the routine twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device (LFD) COVID-19 testing of those aged 11 and above in the household.

If you think your child is a close contact (and is aged over 5 years, unless a household contact) but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance here:

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known and they are fever free (without medication) for at least 24 hours.

- If negative, your child can end self-isolation;
- If positive, your child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

If your child has a positive test result, but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August 2021, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally

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required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the stay at home guidance which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school/college/childcare/education setting or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. 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. You could also be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace.

Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Pupils who are household contacts of a positive case or have been contacted as a close contact by Test & Trace, including those in Primary settings, can take daily LFD tests whilst awaiting PCR results. If negative they can remain in school.

If you require help with tasks such as essentials or food shopping and collection of prescriptions, you should ask friends or family from outside your household or order online. If you do not have access to the internet or people to help, you can contact the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub to request help. Simply call 0300 003 4576 or email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk. The Wellbeing Hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm.

There is also a Community Groups Directory of volunteers that can provide assistance at this time. You can find it online: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/4270/Community-Groups-Directory/pdf/Directory_v43_AD_01092020.pdf

If you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate and you are working on a low income and will lose pay because you cannot work from home or are in receipt of benefits, you may be eligible for a one-off self-isolation payment of £500 as part of the government's Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. For more information visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-test-and-trace or call either 0300 456 0110 or 119, or email benefits@wiltshire.gov.uk.

If you have any health-related questions relating to COVID-19 or pre-existing conditions, please contact NHS 111 or your GP.

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Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread. Student/child close contacts not required to self-isolate should continue to attend the educational setting as normal. As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces (when not in school)
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in regular LFD testing if aged 11 years old and older

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

If you are a health or social care worker or a student undertaking a work placement who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is additional guidance available that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test and follow the guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

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 coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

We are keen to ensure education can continue; and we wish to advocate the following things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

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- **get vaccinated** – everyone aged 18 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments. 12–17 year olds are also offered one dose of the vaccine. COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for eligible children and young people aged 12 to 17 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- **if you’re symptomatic** - Isolate and get PCR test
- **if you think you are a close contact** - get a PCR test
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- clean surfaces often, paying particular attention to surfaces touched often (e.g. light switches, door handles or electronic devices)
- Keep indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period per day
- **consider your social contacts** – every contact carries a COVID risk, even with vaccinated people so:
 - consider whether to meet up at all
 - meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
 - open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
 - wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
 - Reduce the time spent in crowded areas where it may be difficult to social distance
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

As you may know, the UK Health Security Agency (formerly PHE) has been made aware that some areas are reporting positive LFD test results with subsequent negative PCR tests.

The UKHSA investigation led to a test lab being temporarily closed. All affected test participants are being contacted by National Test & Trace should they still be within their infectious period and need to retest.

National guidance is clear, that if people still feel unwell after a negative test, they should stay at home until feeling better. When people test negative via a PCR test but go on to develop COVID-19 symptoms after the test they should take another PCR test. Please also see the following for further information.

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/test-results/negative-test-result/>

Yours sincerely

Karen Walker

Headteacher