

Our Ref: HeadteacherSA: parental ltrs/POS/JOD
Date: 8th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all well. Now that all students have returned to school, I would like to remind you of some elements of DfE guidance relating to control measures and responses to infections in school.

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection'.

Prevention

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend.
2. Where recommended, use of face coverings in school.
3. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
5. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
6. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
7. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Numbers 1 to 5 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 6 must be properly considered, and school must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 7 applies in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection

8. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
9. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (covid-19) amongst the school community.
10. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection advice.

Numbers 8 to 10 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

We need to ensure that students, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they:

1. have coronavirus (covid-19) symptoms
2. have tested positive in at least the last 10 days
3. anyone developing symptoms at school will be sent home

When a student in school becomes unwell with:

- a. a new and persistent cough
- b. a high temperature
- c. a loss or change in their normal sense of taste or smell

they must be sent home and advised to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed covid-19 infection. The student should self-isolate for at least 10 days and parents should arrange for them to have a test to see if they have covid-19.

If a student tests positive while not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10 day isolation period from the day symptoms developed.

Other members of the household should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Managing confirmed cases of covid-19 in school

When we become aware that a student who has attended has tested positive for (covid-19) we will contract the local health protection team for further guidance.

Alongside PHE we will carry out a risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period they were infectious and ensure they are asked to self-isolate for 14 days (this will probably be the year group 'bubble' that the student that tested positive is in).

All of the students in the 'bubble' will then be sent home for a 14 day period since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious (we will confirm these dates with you at that time).

We **will not** request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children back after the 10 or 14 day period of self-isolation.

In most cases I hope that we are in agreement that a child with symptoms should not attend school given the possible risk to others. DfE guidance sets out:

"In the event that a parent or guardian insists on a child attending school, schools can make the decision to refuse the child if in their reasonable judgement it is necessary to protect their students and staff from possible infection with coronavirus."

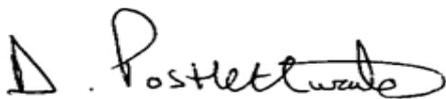
Given the media attention this issue has received during the past few days, I felt it was important to remind you of both 'prevention measures' and 'responses to infection'.

In the meantime, please could we ask for your support in encouraging your child to arrive at the correct start time for their year and not earlier. This measure is to assist us in keeping the different year groups separate during the school day.

Hopefully we will contain any outbreaks in school by adhering to these protocols alongside liaison with the local health protection team.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



D Postlethwaite
Headteacher (Acting)