



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

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13th November 2020

Outbreak letter for school – Advice to Parents and Carers

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

In the last week we have been made aware of two Year 11 students in our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19. We were made aware of the second student today.

As always we have worked with Public Health England and following their guidelines we are unfortunately having to ask the rest of our Year 11 students to self-isolate.

Following our conversations today with Public Health England they confirmed that *“COVID-19 is circulating highly in the community on 13th November 2020, and the likelihood of pupils having coronavirus infection is high.”*

I am very aware that students have already missed a lot of time in school and that it is important to find the balance between identifying everyone who may be at a genuine risk of developing infection whilst not asking students and staff to self-isolate unnecessarily. We want to have as many students in school as possible but the positive cases mean that in line with Public Health England guidelines we are needing to ask these Year 11 students to self-isolate.

We feel confident in our approaches following a telephone call earlier in the term with the Health and Safety Executive where they commented that “you have elaborated very well on all of your answers” and this gives us confidence that if we continue to follow, monitor and review our stringent processes we are keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Nevertheless, it is very frustrating to be in this position of sending students home to self-isolate having worked so hard this term and throughout the summer holiday to put a strong risk assessment in place that students and staff continue to follow.

We are all experiencing extremely challenging times and have at the heart of all of our decisions the safety, wellbeing and education of our students. We find many of the rules we need to abide by frustrating but we continue to work with Public Health England, the Department for Education and Devon County Council with integrity to make the best decisions possible. We do also represent any concerns regarding guidance with such agencies so that we work together to get the best deal we can for students.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. 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.

Life to the full for everyone.'



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The children who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed cases will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days.

The school remains open and, providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should organise for your child to be tested via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. Your household should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

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

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

Flu vaccination

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you and your family to have the flu vaccination if you are eligible for this, especially if you are in a risk group. You can find out about risk groups and whether you are eligible for a flu vaccine at the [NHS Flu vaccine overview](#).

Further information

Further information is available at

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

and

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

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall
Headteacher