

15 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been notified that several students and/or staff have tested positive for COVID-19 at our setting. Your child has been identified as someone who is likely to have contact with these individuals as part of a class or group.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the current situation and advise you on what to do next. We are monitoring the situation closely and are working with our local Public Health team to put temporary additional measures in place to help reduce the risk of onward transmission within our setting.

The Public Health team has advised that as a precaution all students within this group should book a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child can continue to attend our setting whilst waiting for their result, unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19.

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

Typical 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.

- If the PCR test is negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to the setting
- If the PCR test is positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

Please note that we have seen that additional symptoms of an upset stomach, runny nose, headache, sore throat or unusual fatigue (tiredness) could be early warning signs of a potential COVID-19 infection. We advise that children with these symptoms should be

kept at home, and a PCR test should be booked if any of the typical COVID-19 symptoms appear (see above). If further symptoms don't arise then the child can return to the setting when they are well.

If your child does develop COVID-19 symptoms, you can seek advice from the NHS 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 should contact NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

1) Additional advice for children who attend our educational setting, who have a positive case in their household

- As part of our response to COVID-19 cases in education settings that have met a threshold for further action, the local Public Health team have advised that where possible any child who lives with someone who has tested positive in the last 10 days, **should not go into their educational setting**, and take a PCR test 3 to 5 days after the onset of symptoms or first positive test in the household (whichever was soonest). They must stay away from their education setting until a negative result is received. If positive they must isolate for 10 days.
- Your child will be expected to participate in learning from home, and this will not be counted as an unauthorised absence.
- If the PCR test is negative and the child is not displaying any symptoms then they may return to their setting.
- Transmission between household members is very common and we are taking this additional measure to prevent further disruption in the school from COVID-19.
- **Exceptions:** Please note that this advice does not apply to children who have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days nor those who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine more than 14 days ago. They should only stay at home and get a test if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- This advice will be reviewed after 14 days, along with the other additional measures that we have put in place.

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

From 16 August, [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.

- 3) Reintroduction of face coverings for staff and students when moving in and around communal areas (e.g., when moving around in corridors). This will come into effect on Monday 18 October 2021 and this information will be shared with students today. We would appreciate your support in ensuring your child has a face mask with them on Monday morning.**

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and is not fully vaccinated will still be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms who is awaiting testing, or a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) for more information on this.

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.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 17 and 9 months and over can [book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now. Those who are 16 or 17 years old can get vaccinated at a drop-in site.
See <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in> for clinic locations and times.
- 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
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside

- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- 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>

Further information is available at

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francis Galbraith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Francis Galbraith
Principal