



Wednesday, 12 January 2022

Advice to All Parents – Covid 19 Outbreak and Attendance Information

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform the school community of the current outbreak status in school; please see the table below. Please note, in line with current guidance, we do not report every individual case but do confirm where outbreaks occur. We would ask that families do not contact the school for further information in relation to this unless they are confirming an additional positive test or COVID 19 symptoms as:

- we have contacted all families directly that we believe we need to at this stage
- we are not able to reveal the identity of any cases – directly or indirectly
- it will tie up already stretched resources within our medical and administration team

Outbreak Overview

| Classes | Guide and Action |
|---------|---|
| 3PB | 3PB is over the 10% threshold of positive cases in the class and is therefore classed as having an outbreak. Your child may have been exposed to COVID 19, therefore to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community, UKHSA have recommended that children in 3PB use LFD tests for 7 days and if positive then they should isolate. |
| 3DH | 3DH is over the 10% threshold of positive cases in the class and is therefore classed as having an outbreak. Your child may have been exposed to COVID 19, therefore to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community, UKHSA have recommended that children in 3DH use LFD tests for 7 days and if positive then they should isolate. |

Attendance

We understand the concerns of parents currently as cases rise. Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

Government [guidance](#) states that

'Our priority is for schools to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and care to all children and young people. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health'... 'Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly if they are registered at one. If you have concerns about your child attending, you should discuss these with school. Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again. Children and young people who were previously identified as being in one of these groups, are advised to continue to follow the same Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread guidance as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.'



We would ask any family who are concerned about a child, who has previously been identified as vulnerable or critically extremely vulnerable, to contact their specialist or clinician for advice. Without this, we would not be able to authorise absence from school due to concerns over Covid.

Isolation – household and close contacts

The guidance also states that ‘children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, are not required to self-isolate.’

Therefore, if there is a confirmed positive case in your household or a child has been a close contact of a positive case, they should attend school if they are well enough to do so, are not displaying Covid symptoms and have not tested positive themselves. However, the guidance does recommend daily testing for children and young people aged 5 to 18 years who are identified as close contacts by NHS Test and Trace. Contact tracing is no longer undertaken by schools, however, we will inform the school community of any outbreak in school to alert families of the increased risk of close contact in a specific class/classes.

If a child is absent due to the fact that they are a close contact alone, this will not be authorised. If, due to members of the household in isolation, it is not possible to get the child to school, the absence will be authorised as long as the child engages with home learning.

Yours sincerely

Jez Himsworth

Deputy Head