



Monday, 23 November 2020

COVID case confirmation

Dear Parent,

We have been made aware of a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the Department for Education. 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. 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:

1. we have contacted all families directly that we believe we need to at this stage
2. we are not able to reveal the identity of the case – directly or indirectly
3. this letter provides a range of information and signposted information on next steps to be taken.
4. it will tie up, already stretched resources, within our medical and administration team.

The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days.

Chesswood Thresholds

We will confirm the current threshold guide for our school following any case.

We are currently at:

Stage	Description	Example Actions
3	There has been <u>one</u> positive case of a child or member of staff attending Chesswood Junior School within the past 14 days. The individual is required to isolate for at least 10 days and close contacts in school are required to isolate for 14 days and undertake a test.	A risk assessment review will be undertaken, control measures will be considered again whether they remain fit for purpose. Further advice will be sought from the local Public Health England team. Considerations for playground management, school assemblies, specialist teaching and cleaning rotas will be reviewed, amongst other things.



Positive case overview

	Classes	Guide				
Class	3LB	A person (child or adult) has a confirmed COVID case. We have reviewed the contacts of the positive case an informed families of the direct contacts.				
		A small number of contacts (children and adults) have been asked to isolate until Tuesday 1 st December based on potential contacts on Tuesday 17 th November. At this time, it is not thought there are any other relevant contacts to isolate. Absence will be authorized for children expected to isolate.				
		The remaining children and adults are highly unlikely to have had the required direct contact to isolate. They may have been a contact of a contact, however, there is no reason for a contact of a contact to isolate. This explains why family members of those contacts isolating do not need to isolate themselves (unless anyone develops any one symptom).				
		As a result the remaining children and adults that have not been contacted directly should continue to attend school unless they are not well enough to do so.				
		If there are specific exceptional circumstances i.e. you live with someone that is extremely clinically vulnerable; you are advised to contact an appropriate health care professional to share the current circumstances and get direction from them as we are unable to provide more specific information.				
		If you would like to explore your options regarding school attendance and have specific exceptional circumstances that apply you should email head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk .				
Wider Bubble	3HG 3ML	No specific action for any child or adult				
		ALL children within these classes attend school as normal following the existing precautions when they are well enough to do so. We don't expect to authorize absence for this group of children if they are well enough to attend school.				
		If a family believes there are exceptional circumstances that should be taken into consideration regarding attendance they should be emailed to head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk				
Wider School	All classes	Continue to attend school as normal following the existing precautions when they are well enough to do so. We don't expect to authorize absence for this group of children if they are well enough to attend school.				
		If a family believes there are exceptional circumstances that should be taken into consideration regarding attendance they should be emailed to head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk				
Guide	Fully Open		Partially Closed		Fully Closed	
Current Class Status						
Year 3	3HG	3LB	3PB	3DH	3ML	
Year 4	4OM	4JD	4EV	4CR	4DG	
Year 5	5HH	5AL	5KM	5AY	5EM	5JH
Year 6	6BP	6MH	6SJ	6RW	6EW	6EP



Case management principles

- We would not compromise school opening for a wider group of children or staff, therefore ALL parents should hold genuine confidence that ALL children and adults that need to isolate, will isolate. That will leave a remaining group of children that DO NOT need to isolate and should attend school.
- Where there is uncertainty regarding contacts we will be cautious and will close down a class if the tracing evidence warrants it. If it doesn't, as in the recent case, we will isolate the appropriate number of individuals that have had contact – partially closing a class.
- If there is more than one case in a class, the whole class will close with immediate effect. We will then consider the contacts within the wider bubble to determine whether further children should isolate. This will be done in partnership with external agencies including the Department for Education and Public Health England representatives.
- This is a matter of trust, professional judgement and personal judgment – ultimately parents will need to trust that school leaders will undertake their work seriously and diligently in everyone's best interests.
- Please understand that careless talk, speculation and second guessing regarding positive cases will lead to significant additional work for school staff already breaking under the strain of the current circumstances and will also, when placed on social media, lead to unnecessary worry and anxiety at a time when families need less.
- As many understand, we are working with limited resources to address a complex and challenging situation, above and beyond the normal work that is typically under resourced. Despite those challenges we actively want families to contact us immediately, if you believe
 - we have overlooked something and you have reasonable evidence that is the case
 - you have additional information that could reasonably support a review of the current decisions that have been made
 - you have exceptional circumstances that affect your family and need to be considered in more depth between home and school e.g. living with a person (adult or child) that is extremely clinically vulnerable
- Otherwise we would politely ask families to avoid seeking further information regarding any confirmed case. Please help us help the whole of our very diverse school community navigate through these challenging times in the most effective way possible.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19,

1. they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
2. Contact Chesswood Junior school by email immediately you have a positive test result: head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk and office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.



If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

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

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

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 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

Reporting Cases and potential cases

We request that all families use our online form to alert the school team to a suspected or confirmed case: <https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=COVID+19&pid=330>

HOME > PARENTS > COVID 19

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely,