**Outbreak Letter for School at the Threshold– Advice to Parents**



Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last xxx weeks we have been made aware that a small number/several members of the school community have tested positive for COVID-19.

The situation is being closely monitored and public health advisers are working closely with the school/setting. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child/young person. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

There are a number of outbreak management actions that may be taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including increasing cleaning, ventilation, possibly reintroducing face coverings and reducing mixing in schools. You will be informed of these possible measures if needed. We are extremely mindful of the negative impact of missing education has on children and young people, therefore, restricting attendance at school will only be considered as an absolute last resort.

The school remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal.

**What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 (new, continuous cough, high temperature, loss/change in taste/smell), they 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.

If the person with symptoms receives a positive test result, all household members who are fully vaccinated (had their second vaccine more than 14 days ago) or are aged below 18 years 6 months, do not need to isolate but should access a free PCR test. Adults who are not fully vaccinated need to isolate from 10 days from the case’s first symptoms (or test date if they had no symptoms). Full guidance can be found 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>

If your child receives a negative PCR test result, they can return to school when they have been fever free for 48 hours and are feeling well.

**Contact tracing**

Schools/settings are no longer required to trace close contacts of cases and, if your child tests positive for COVID-19, the local contact tracing team will be in touch to identify close contacts. Contact tracers will ask about symptoms, test date and will help you to identify anyone they have been in close contact with during their infectious period. We appreciate you may not be able to identify all of those who have been close contact with your child, however, we will work with you to identify as many as possible.

If your child is identified as a close contact, they will be contacted and advised to access a free PCR test (they do not need to isolate whilst waiting for the result).

**How you can help**

**Vaccination** is the single, most effective step we can take to protect ourselves and other from the virus and we would urge everyone aged 12 and above to ‘grab a jab’. This is crucially important for lowering the infection rate in schools/settings and the wider community and is the best way you can protect yourself and your family from COVID-19.

**Symptoms** - It is also extremely important that all parents/carers are vigilant in spotting symptoms in their child(ren) and do not send them to their school/setting if they have COVID-19 symptoms. During this period when there are COVID-19 cases in schools, if you are in any doubt about your child’s symptoms, please take them for a PCR test.

***[FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ONLY]******Testing*** *- Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing is extremely important in reducing the risk of the virus spreading and we encourage you to support your child in taking their tests at least twice per week and reporting their results.*

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher in collaboration with Public Health at Solihull Council