

Thursday 13th January 2022

Advice to All Parents

Dear Parents,

You will have already received our 'Warn & Inform' letter, earlier this week, where you will have been advised of positive cases within the school. These are sporadic across the school, with no pattern or outbreak. Public Health England describe this as a communitive transmission, which tends to happen after periods of socialisation (Christmas) and within families.

The one pattern that has been noted is where a person has mild symptoms, or cold-like symptoms, including a raised temperature, but the Lateral Flow initially is negative. However, a few days later (48-72hrs) LFTs are showing a faint positive line. Therefore, Public Health England have provided the following guidance, in addition to recapping the previous information, below:

Children who are unwell should not attend the setting and should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve (+24-48 hours for a fever). This has always been the case.

- IF these symptoms develop into cough, temperature, changes to taste and smell, should isolate and test.
- IF test negative to COVID-19, still need to remain at home until at least 24 fever free and acute symptoms resolved.
- Parents and settings should not try and 'second guess' diagnosis – if have the key symptoms, isolate and test.
- Examples of acute symptoms with which children should not attend school/nursery include fever, muscle aches, hacking cough.
- Examples of symptoms with which children could attend school/ nursery include persistent runny nose, irritable cough (if COVID-19 positive, they must have completed the appropriate isolation period).

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and ensure the required controls are in place. 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.

To help prevent avoidable spread, we encourage staff and families to continue with the twice weekly LFD testing, to inform us of the result and to follow-up any positive results with a confirmatory PCR test. Please note that LFD tests are not suitable for children

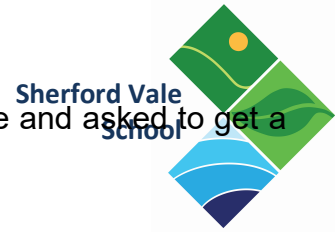
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under the age of 11. You may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and asked to get a PCR test if your child has been identified as a close contact.



The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, however mild, please isolate as a household and book a test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken a test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If the test is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol) for at least 24 hours.

If the test is positive your household must self-isolate for 10 days from the date symptoms started, unless any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)
- if symptoms develop, isolate and get tested

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>

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

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

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
- Keep indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- 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

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

Yours sincerely
Headteacher



Mrs Susie Evans
Headteacher