

19 December 2020

Dear parent(s)/carer(s):

This afternoon, we became aware that two students in year 9 had tested positive for COVID-19. One student concerned, and members of their household, experienced symptoms on Thursday 17 December and so the student stayed away from school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the family all took a test that day. The test results all came back positive and we were informed of the result this morning. The other student was symptomatic on Wednesday 16th December and did not come into school on Tuesday and Wednesday. They took a test and we were informed of the positive result today.

As the students concerned were in school on Monday 14 December and Tuesday 15 December, during the 48 hour period before they were symptomatic, we have to identify 'close contacts' for these two days, as required by Public Health England (PHE). Due to the specific circumstances, on the basis of advice from the Staffordshire LA health and safety team, we made arrangements for seating plans to be checked on the two days to complete the 'close contacts' identification.

As specific students were subsequently identified as 'close contacts', we were then able to contact their parents/carers, via MyEd App informing them that they needed to stay at home for 10 days - counting on from their last potential contact, i.e. from Monday or Tuesday 14/15th December.

Members of the same households as these students do not need to self-isolate, unless they begin to develop symptoms themselves. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the recent onset of:

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

Anyone who has one of the main symptoms (as listed above) must self-isolate immediately and book a test.

Please also note that symptoms for children/young people can include:

- nasal congestion or runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- diarrhea
- nausea or vomiting
- stomach ache
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or body aches

If your child has any of these other symptoms (but not the main symptoms), Staffordshire's Director of Health and Care advises that they should take a test, but that they can carry on going to school if they are well enough to do so. They only need to self-isolate if the test comes back positive.

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

If you, or your child, develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned, or symptoms are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Whether they are self-isolating or not, please remember that if your son/daughter does develop symptoms, then they should get a test (which can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119) and:

- if the test is negative, remain in isolation for the rest of the 10-day period;
- if the test is positive, inform the school immediately and isolate for at least ten days from the onset of the symptoms. Their household should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when they first had symptoms. All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 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 students who will be self-isolating will have a full programme of work and lessons managed through the use of the 'Show My Homework' platform and through Microsoft Teams from Monday 4th January.

As we are sure you are aware, in these circumstances, it is important that any information that relates to an individual student is treated with discretion and sensitivity. Bearing this in mind, we would appreciate it if you could reinforce to your son/daughter how important it is for social media to be used responsibly.

Thank you for your continued support over this difficult time. We will, of course, continue to keep you well-informed of any developments.

Sincerely:

Stuart Jones
Executive Headteacher

Nicola Mason
Head of School