

10 December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s):

This morning, we became aware that a student in year 9 had tested positive for COVID-19. The student concerned experienced symptoms on Saturday 5 December and was last in school on Friday 4 December. A test was taken on Monday 7 December and came back positive this morning. We understand that the likely cause of transmission (passed on from a healthcare workplace setting), is from family members who became symptomatic on Friday. The whole family have tested positive.

As the student concerned was in school on Thursday 3 December and Friday 3 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).

Parents/carers have been informed and the 'close contacts' have been told that to stay at home for 14 days - counting on from their last potential contact, i.e. from Thursday 3 December or from Friday 4 December. No members of staff have been required to self-isolate.

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 14-day period;
- if the test is positive, inform the school immediately and isolate for at least ten days from the onset of the symptoms (which could mean, for students already self-isolating) that the self-isolation period ends before, or after, the end of the 14-day period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when they first had symptoms. 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 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.

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