



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/covidupdate

30 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: COVID-19 Updates

You will be aware that since the start of term there has been a reduction in COVID restrictions in all schools with many aspects of the school day returning to normal. To support this process, schools are required to have robust COVID Risk Assessments in place which include contingency plans should there be what is defined as an 'outbreak' involving multiple linked positive cases; to date, in school we have not reached this threshold and our standard practices continue.

We have however adopted guidance from Shropshire Public Health to support our local schools and those across our community at a time where we have seen a rise in cases across Shropshire and Telford; we recognise that the situation can change very quickly with regards to positive cases. An example of action taken by the school is the re-arranged Open Events which aim to limit large gatherings in school.

In addition, the Shropshire Public Health team have recommended a temporary change of advice to parents of children at school and adults who work in school settings within our Local Authority; our TrustEd Schools and OWS response is shown below:

Shropshire schools have been asked to alter some Covid-19 responses because rates in our county are high. As a Trust we are adopting these changes which will relate to our schools from Monday, 4th October 2021 until 31st October 2021 in the first instance. (On 1st November we will have reviewed the situation and we may go back to the system we had in place for the start of term). These temporary measures are designed by Shropshire LA to help schools to prevent, reduce and contain the spread of cases within school settings. Please note, they only relate to members of your household that attend our schools, not family members who work or learn elsewhere, unless they have adopted the same measures. These are the changes:

1. Household Positive Cases

We are informing staff and students that if someone in your house has had a positive PCR test then all people in the household should have a PCR test too. While they wait for the results, they should stay away from school and ideally shouldn't mix with others (self isolate). They can come back to school if their result comes back negative. If the PCR result is negative, then pupils/staff are advised that a second PCR test after 4 or 5 days is sensible. We would also recommend frequent LFTs too.

Action: *Someone in your household had a positive PCR? Get a PCR test for everyone in your household and stay away from school to wait for the result. If the result is negative come back to school.*

Continued/...

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2. The Three Main Symptoms

Anyone with the 3 main symptoms or the precautionary symptoms (even if they are not a close contact of a confirmed case) are recommended to get a PCR test and only return to school after a negative result. They should also consider contacting 111 for medical advice if required because these symptoms are not unique to COVID-19.

See <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>

Action: *Got one of the three main symptoms – a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste / smell? Get a test and stay away from school while you wait for the result.*

3. Close Contacts

All close contacts of confirmed cases (PCR positive) are also recommended to take a PCR test, but unless they have any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 or any of the precautionary symptoms, they can continue to attend school when waiting on results of the PCR.

Action: *Had close contact with someone who has had a positive PCR but you don't live with them? Get a PCR test for yourself but keep coming to school while you wait for the result.*

Can I thank all families for their continued support as all schools continue to navigate through the requirements in managing the COVID situation; as always please refer to the school website or contact school if any further advice is required.

Yours sincerely



Mr L Tristham
Headteacher