

14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent or Carer

We have been notified of **confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school community.**

**Your child has been identified as a close contact.**

In line with the national guidance, children aged under 18 years are not required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Your child can continue to attend school provided your child does not develop symptoms. Anyone identified as a close contact who has a negative rapid lateral flow result is strongly advised to limit close contact with others especially with anyone who is more vulnerable.

**Action needed**

1. As your child is a close contact, Public Health are asking **your child to take daily Lateral Flow Device (LFD tests) for 7 days.** This will help us to identify and isolate cases, prevent onward transmission, and minimise our case rates in the city.

Please go to [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) to find where you can get LFD tests from. Your child should do daily LFD tests even if they have tested positive within the last 90 days themselves.

Please remember:

- if your child tests negative, they can continue attending school.
- if your child has a positive LFD result, they must isolate as a new case and inform school in the usual way. They do not require a confirmation PCR test. Please report all test results at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.
- if they develop COVID symptoms, they must start isolating and book a PCR test. It is important that people with COVID symptoms do not rely on a negative LFD test and they should have a PCR test. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home.

**Exemptions to close contact testing:**

The groups exempt from this advice are:

- Children 4 and under.

Principal - Paul McEvoy

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- Children who attend SEND schools, if they are unable to test – please let school know if someone tests positive in your household

- **Routine LFD asymptomatic testing**

We strongly encourage parents to support their children to test at home **twice a week** and to register their results, even when negative. This important testing helps to pick up the infection early, preventing further spread, keeping families, friends and schools protected from COVID.

**If a PCR test or lateral flow test is positive, they must isolate for 10 days.**

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate, and you should arrange a test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or by calling **119**.

- If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result.
- Your child may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. They can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day symptoms starting (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day (day 7). The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end self-isolation after the second negative test result. For an example and diagram explaining further please visit the stay at home guidance: <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's initial PCR test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so.

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Household contacts who are aged over 18 years and 6 months and not fully vaccinated, are legally required to self-isolate and should take a PCR test.

Household contacts who are,

- fully vaccinated
- or aged under 18 years and 6 months
- or have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- or not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Are NOT legally required to self isolate, but are strongly advised to take daily LFD tests for 7 days. Household contact must isolate if they develop symptoms and take a PCR test.

Household contacts who are aged under 5 years old are not legally required to isolate but should take a PCR test. They do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

Please visit the link to Public Health England's guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infections: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Public Health:

1. Are **still advising immediate isolation** to anyone who is suffering three **classical symptoms**, namely: new continuous cough; a high temperature (fever); or a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell, or have a positive test result
2. Are advising, children who are identified as contacts and become unwell with any of the symptoms below are **not expected to isolate immediately** but would be advised to book a PCR test.

The non-classical symptoms associated with the virus can include:

- Vomiting/nausea/off your food
- Diarrhoea
- Sleeping more than usual/extreme tiredness
- Listless/restless/agitated
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling cold
- Headache
- Severe body aches
- Sore throat
- Congested or runny nose
- Skin rash
- Complaining of anything that is not feeling themselves.

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3. To book a PCR test please visit [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) and, when prompted, click the box 'I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional' option.

### Test and Trace Support Payments

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This now applies to parents/ carers who cannot work from home and will lose income by self-isolating or staying at home to care for the child.

People who are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment (TTSP), will still be asked to take a confirmatory PCR if they receive a positive LFD result, to enable them to access financial support.

Further details are available via: <https://www.salford.gov.uk/benefits/test-and-trace-support-payments/my-child-is-having-to-isolate/>

Please remember, although COVID-19 is circulating in the community, usual childhood illnesses are too; and it is important that these are not missed. Please contact your GP or NHS111 if you are worried; or call 999 if seriously unwell.

If you have any questions or concerns, please refer to the government website; or call The Spirit of Salford Helpline on 0800 952 1000 Further information is included in the [information sheet](#) below.

Best wishes

Mr McEvoy

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## **Information sheet**

If you think that someone in your household has come in contact with a confirmed case or you need help or advice about self-isolation, please call the Spirit of Salford helpline on **0800 952 1000**.

### **Public Health Advice on symptoms**

If anyone in your household becomes unwell with one of the symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) please isolate them immediately and book a test by ringing **119** or go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

**Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:**

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

**There are also other non-classical symptoms that can be associated with the virus.**

Information about COVID-19 symptoms and management of the virus can be found here, [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

## **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

- 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

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- 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
- take a coronavirus test if you are unwell with symptoms that could be coronavirus or if you come in contact with a confirmed case
- take extra precautions if you are a household contact as you can pass on the virus to others even if you do not have symptoms
- the coronavirus vaccine protects from the serious effects of the illness

Please visit the link to Public Health England's guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infections: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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