



Leventhorpe

a business and enterprise academy

Date: 13th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to advise you that we have had 4 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. I can appreciate that this will appear alarming, however 3 of the cases do not appear to be linked. The fourth case is linked; it occurred during a period of self-isolation and has had no further impact on our school community.

Locally we have seen the cases per 100,000 in East Hertfordshire rise from 14 per 100,000 to 87 per 100,000 over the past three weeks. Our local area is seeing a faster increase than the national average and there is a need to be increasingly vigilant. I can confirm that we have had no cross bubble spread in the school. It is not possible to say whether our cases contracted the virus in or out of school. We will continue to work very closely with the DfE, the Local Authority and Public Health England and be driven by their guidance. The announcements from the Prime Minister yesterday indicated the extent of the problems we are facing nationally. In order to maintain our educational offer, it is important that as a community we try to ensure we minimise social contacts in line with the national guidance. Please ensure that students and your household minimise social contacts during evening and weekends and that they pay attention to any relevant guidance given in this letter.

The small number of students who have been in close contact with the individuals whom have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), have received a letter informing them that they have been identified as a close contact. This has also been followed up with a telephone call home. If you have not received any specific communication your child has not been identified as a contact and therefore there is no need for them to isolate.

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, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

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 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

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

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. 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.

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

Further Information

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

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm White
Headteacher