

## ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### FOR THE ATTENTION OF RECEPTION AND YEAR 4 PARENTS/CARERS

#### Advice for Child to Self-Isolate up to and including Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parent/carers of Reception and Year 4 children,

As you will know, we have been made aware that we have a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 at our school as an external sports coach has tested positive with an LFD and PCR test.

We have followed the national guidance and, following a risk assessment with Public Health advisers and the Department for Education, have identified that your child has been in close contact with the individual who has had a positive test result for Covid-19. In line with the national guidance, your child must stay at home and self-isolate **up to and including Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July**.

I must reiterate that these rules are mandated to us as a school. This is not down to us; we have no option but to follow the expectations currently in place. The safety of your children, your family and our school community is of paramount importance to us. The rates of transmission are very high at the moment and acting quickly will hopefully mean that we will be able to avoid any further cases and/or whole school closures that have happened to other schools in our area recently. Having said that, whilst we operate a tight risk assessment and endeavour to do everything we can to reduce the risk, we are not able to mitigate everything hence the situation we are in. In line with other local schools, we will continue to implement our current risk assessment until the end of term in the hope that we can avoid further isolation for children at the end of term or into their school holidays. We are disappointed that we are in these circumstances and truly wish they were different.

If your child is well at the end of the period of self-isolation then they can return to their usual activities and attend school as normal on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities, provided your child does not develop symptoms within the self-isolation period.



For more information, please see the guidance for contacts of people with confirmed Covid-19 infection who do not live with the person:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

### Getting a PCR test for a close contact of a case?

It is now also possible for **close contacts** to have a PCR test even where they do not have symptoms through [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119. This is guidance only for parents and not mandated.

### Please note:

- if your child has a negative PCR test result this does not alter the self-isolation period as a contact. **Close contacts should continue to self-isolate up to and including Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, as they could still become infectious and pass the infection onto others.**
- Please make sure you read the full text message from NHS T&T when receiving a negative result. This makes clear that you do not need to self-isolate **unless** 'you've **been told to self-isolate because you've been in close contact with someone who tested positive**' [Negative test result for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Primary aged children should not be tested under any circumstances with rapid LFD test kits

### What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19)

Having been identified as a close contact, if your child then develops symptoms of Covid-19 they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of Covid-19 are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test - this is the type of test that is normally available and 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 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The household isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25<sup>th</sup> and you can return to your normal routine.

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 10 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. If that is not possible, anyone with symptoms should try and stay as far away as possible from vulnerable members of your household.

For more information, please read PHE's '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>

### **For most people 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

- 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 sincerely,

Steph Jenkins  
Headteacher



Healthy School

