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Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that I have been informed that a student in Year 7, 11 and two students in Year 13 have tested positive for coronavirus.

In terms of the advice from Public Health England their guidance is very clear as to who needs to self-isolate. Only those students who are deemed to have come into close contact with the person testing positive in the 48 hours prior to them displaying symptoms (or testing positive if they show no symptoms) need to self-isolate for 10 days from their last point of contact.

A close contact is defined as:

- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to face conversation within one metre.
- been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- sexual contacts
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

In order to identify close contacts, we have reviewed classroom seating plans, spoken to class teachers and discussed the close friendship group of the student.

The small number of students who have been identified as a close contact have received a phone call informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days.

All other students who have not been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.

Thank you to all Year 7 parents and carers for responding so promptly to the alert from Mr Cleary last night, which gave school the opportunity to identify close contacts. As mentioned above, all close contacts have now received a phone call for their child to stay at home for 10 days. All other Year 7 students can return to school tomorrow (Tuesday 27th April).

I appreciate the current situation will undoubtedly cause some concern, but it is important that we handle the situation calmly, taking all reasonable and proportionate measures to ensure all students and staff remain safe.

There is standard advice below from the Department for Education that is to be distributed in a letter to all parents whose children are attending school during lockdown in the event of a positive case at school.

Advice to All Parents and Carers – In the Event of a Single Confirmed Case

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

We know that you may find this concerning but are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The small number of children who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case will have received a phone call and will be staying at home for 10 days.

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 10 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 10-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 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.

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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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/>

Please do not hesitate to contact the school in the normal way should you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely



Clair Foden
Headteacher