



25 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Outbreak Letter for School – Advice to Parents

We are now aware of five members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID-19. The latest case is that of a student.

As I have mentioned before, we know that you will continue to find this concerning and we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and Public Health at Wokingham Local Authority. 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 students who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed cases will have received an individual email in addition to this one and will be staying at home for 14 days from the initial contact.

The school remains open and if you have not received an email informing you that your child should self-isolate then they should continue to attend if they are well.

I would like to reiterate what Ingrid Slade from Public Health Wokingham stated when I last wrote to you regarding this:

There is community spread of covid-19 in the country and it was expected that there would be some cases in schools. Maiden Erlegh School has been notified of 4 cases. As the school has considerable social distancing measures in place it has been possible to identify and isolate the appropriate contacts. No further public health control measures need to be in place at this point. Cases are monitored on a daily basis and this will be reviewed if there are any changes.

The numbers of Covid-19 remain below the England average in Wokingham, however we are not complacent and we continue to work with all schools and businesses to help put the right measures in place to minimise the spread of covid-19 in Wokingham. If anyone has symptoms of covid-19 they must isolate immediately with their family or household contacts and arrange a test. Tests can be difficult to arrange due to national supply issues so please persevere, you can get a test. It is these measures that will help reduce the spread of the virus.

I also want to reassure you that I continue to have follow all guidance to the letter and hope that by taking this swift action we can contain this outbreak. Once again, thank you for the ongoing support you continue to give the school. I have again added important information about COVID-19 below, please take the time to read this and follow the guidance should any of it apply to you or your household. We of course wish the members of our community who are ill a speedy recovery.

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 guidance 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 can, 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 of COVID-19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, 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 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/>

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher