



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Outbreak Letter for School – Advice to Parents

We are now aware of seven members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID-19. The latest cases are that of students. One of these students had already started isolation as a result of previous cases. As always, I want to be as transparent as possible with you and, as a result, I am informing you that I have made the decision to collapse the Year 7 bubble and ask them to learn remotely for a period of time. In addition, we are currently tracing contacts of a confirmed case in Year 13 and have therefore asked this year group to isolate and follow our remote learning plan whilst tracing is completed.

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 also want to reassure you that I continue to follow all guidance to the letter and hope that by taking this action we can contain this outbreak. The support we have received over the weekend has been extremely positive and I would like to thank you for these messages. It is with regret that I have had to take the actions above but the safety of our community is my number one priority.

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. I must stress how important it is to follow this guidance, if you are unsure about any of it, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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/>

Finally, I want to wish those who are ill within our community a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher