



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Notification of positive COVID-19 test result

I am writing to inform you that we have today been notified of a positive case of COVID-19 within Year 11.

On receiving the notification, we immediately contacted The Department for Education, Public Health England and Public Health at the Local Authority to discuss the situation and to clarify the action we need to take. We are following this advice to the letter and I can confirm that any student who may have been a contact has been written to and told to self-isolate.

I also wish to clarify that there is no current link between this case and any other known cases in the school.

Whilst I understand that we have had a number of cases within the school and this is not the news that you wish to hear, we continue to be proactive in minimising the risk to ensure the community is as safe as possible.

Ingrid Slade from Public Health Wokingham has asked me to pass on the communication below:

As we are witnessing an increase in the community spread of COVID-19 locally and nationally, we would expect to see a similar rise reflected in cases within schools. Currently, the majority of COVID cases in schools represent community transmission. Maiden Erlegh are working hard with partners across the Local Authority and Public Health to ensure that all appropriate contacts of these cases are identified and isolate according to the national guidance.

Our education continuity policy is working well and I have seen many lessons being broadcast virtually to ensure our students' education is not damaged.

Once again, it is critical that should your child or anyone in the household display symptoms, the guidance below is followed.

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/askfor-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-19stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronaviruscovid-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 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/>

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher