MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL
Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson
MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)

Silverdale Road, Earley,
Reading, RG6 7HS
0118 926 2467
MESoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk
@MaidenErleghSch

19 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Notification of positive COVID-19 test result – Year 11 and Year 9

I am writing to inform you that I have received notification that one Year 11 student and a Year 9 student have tested positive for COVID-19. The Year 9 student was already isolating prior to symptoms starting due to a family member already testing positive. The Year 11 student was in for less than a day when they were infectious and we have already traced possible contacts.

On receiving the notification, we immediately contacted The Department for Education and the Local Authority to discuss the situation and to clarify the action we need to take.

We have traced any potential contacts and parents of contacts will have received a letter today informing students that they must isolate in the Year 11 case. This number is very low due to the swift action taken in school. No further action is required for the Year 9 case as the student was not infectious when they were last in school. No students will be required to isolate from this case.

As always, I wish all those affected a speedy recovery and hope that they are doing well.

Please can I ask that you remind your child about their responsibility to and from school with regards to distancing and groups. As a school we are working hard to minimise the spread, but when a case occurs we must also trace those contacts from outside the school gates and at times, this can be greater than the number from within school. I regularly drive around the local area dispersing students and keep them moving to ensure a flow of movement and limited bubble mixing. This is in addition to the regular reminders they receive from staff on the school gate.

I would also reiterate my message from yesterday on following the guidance on symptomatic students, isolation and testing. From discussions with other headteachers, we are seeing some evidence of students coming into school with symptoms which must not happen. Testing and the delivery of results has seen an improvement in timeframes and so it is important the requirements are followed. Together we will overcome this challenge and, as always, I want to thank you for your ongoing support.

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-havecoronavirus-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