

13 November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Information for parents following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school

I wanted to make you all aware that yesterday we received confirmation that a Year 8 student who was in attendance last Tuesday 10 November has tested positive for Covid-19. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

Following the DfE protocols we contacted Public Health England (PHE) who make a judgement on how the school should react to maximise public safety. Having consulted with PHE, the decision was made that part of the year group should self-isolate for two weeks from the date that the student went home ill. Those who need to self-isolate have been identified and informed.

We know that you may find this situation concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with PHE. The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they 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'. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

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:

- 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 when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

The text above was provided to the school by PHE. I am required to send it out. It feels very impersonal so I want to provide some additional information.

Firstly, I have spoken with the family of the student concerned and they are doing well - we send them our best wishes.

Secondly, there have been a large number of schools similarly affected already. Approximately 1 in 3 secondary schools in the county have reported a positive case this week. This number will undoubtedly continue to grow.

Thirdly, the advice is that all other students should continue to attend school. The students have been brilliant so far in following the protective measures that have been implemented and this must remain the case. The safety and well-being of the students and staff remains our primary consideration at this time.

Finally, as and when I get additional information, I will update you as appropriate. In the meantime, if you have any specific concerns then please do email us at svs@severnvaleschool.com

Yours sincerely,

Richard Johnson
Headteacher