

Advice to All Parents and staff - Single case in the school

10th September 2020

Dear Parents, guardians, carers and staff

We have advised Walsall Council Public Health that there has been a suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our school. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child should they be worried.

At the present time no student in the Academy has been advised self-isolate (stay at home) related to this specific case.

Some members of the teaching staff had been identified as a close contact of a suspected case of coronavirus. This teacher with the suspected case was required to self-isolate (stay at home) in line with government guidance. They had, in the two days before this notification, been in contact with some other staff.

What did the school do after becoming aware of this individual?

The school immediately notified and worked with Walsall Council public health. We were advised that the teacher should stay at home for the 10 days and that the other staff should also isolate and be tested.

Today, public health colleagues have made contact with staff members, undertaken a robust assessment of risk in the school and liaised with Public Health England. A meeting was hosted this afternoon by Walsall Public Health with the school and education colleagues in attendance to report these findings and discuss next steps.

The public health team has deemed the risk of infection to staff and pupils to be minimal due to the extensive and robust precautions within the Academy established for safety of staff and students.

These include:

- Enhanced cleaning in classrooms and across the whole site
- Enhanced sanitisation facilities and encouragement of regular hand washing
- One-way systems
- Strict social bubbles within designated zones at break and lunchtimes
- Staggered lunches
- Different entry points and exits
- Seating plans in every classroom
- Recommendation that all staff and students wear face masks in communal places

In addition, the school and public health have agreed to test all staff where there may have been contact with the teacher and we have followed their advice on who should have this test.

In addition, we are expecting staff members to wear a face covering in communal areas and we are

still highly recommending that students do as well and we ask that you encourage your child to wear a mask in communal areas as recommended.

We will keep this under review and update parents if there are any changes.

We would ask you to support us in keeping our school safe and would like to remind you of the following;

What symptoms should I look for?



We all need to remain vigilant by watching out for symptoms of coronavirus.

If your child has any of the symptoms then DO NOT send them into school.

Please let school reception know, stay at home and self-isolate with your household and book a test immediately. You can do this online by visiting or by telephoning 119.

Please remember and reassure your child that for most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

How can we reduce the spread of coronavirus?

There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus:



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

Ensure you stay 2m away from anyone who you do not live with

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

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