



25 March 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Following a home Lateral Flow test we have been made aware of a positive test result of COVID-19 from a student within the school. Following a thorough risk assessment and by using our proximity software we have worked with Wiltshire Council Public Health team, Public Health England and the Department of Education and your child has been identified as a close contact of the confirmed case.

However, as this was a positive test result of a Lateral Flow Test taken at home, the individual student is now having a follow up PCR test. *If the PCR test comes back negative, your child will no longer need to self-isolate and can return to school. We hope to have these results back within the next 48 hours, at which point we will be in contact with you again.*

We are aware that some students were sent home earlier in the week after a positive home Lateral Flow test and then invited back into school after the student received a negative PCR test. This scenario may happen again. We know this can be frustrating for students and parents, however, please be assured that as a school we are simply following the guidance and direction of Public Health England and other agencies.

Until we hear otherwise, and in line with the national guidance your child will need to stay at home and self-isolate until and including **Saturday 3rd April**. You are asked to follow this guidance to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

If your child is well at the end of the 10-day period of self-isolation, they can return to usual activities. This means they will be able to return to school after the Easter Holidays (our last day of term is Wednesday 31st March). They must self-isolate for 10 days even if they test negative during that time.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities unless your child or another member of the household develops symptoms during that time.

Full guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

What to do if your child or another member of the household develops symptoms of COVID 19?

If your child or another member of the household develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should arrange a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 and remain at home with the rest of the household while waiting for the result.



If the test is positive, the individual will need to isolate for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. All other household members must also stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble' – defined here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill with coronavirus symptoms.

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 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If possible, 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.

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms of COVID 19

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)

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/>

Students' Work

Students will be expected to complete and hand in class work each day. For this period of isolation, work has been put on Class Charts for each of their subjects. They are therefore asked to download their subjects in line with their timetable on a daily basis and send work back to their teachers.

We do understand that this is a really challenging and complex situation for parents and carers, so do feel free to contact us at any time should you require any further clarification. We also understand that this can lead to anxiety amongst our young people, therefore if at any stage they require support, please do encourage them to contact us via the JOG Support web page, it can be found here: <https://www.johnofgauntschool.org/page/?title=Care+%26amp%3B+Support&pid=59>

Yours sincerely

Paul Skipp
Headteacher