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Maths &
Computing

THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

CAD/dah

20th January 2022

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Dear parents,

Over the last week we have been made aware of people in our school community who have tested positive for COVID-19.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health Wiltshire. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Students and staff who have tested positive are isolating. The small number of children/staff who are identified as contacts of the confirmed case will have guidance from NHS Test and Trace and those aged five and above will be advised to take daily LFD tests before attending school for a period of 7 days. Outbreak control measures are also in place within the setting and being kept under review.

The school remains open and, providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review. In addition to daily LFD testing for close contacts, we encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

Facemasks

We have been instructed by Public Health to continue to enforce face masks in the classroom and all other communal areas for the next two weeks until Thursday 3rd February when it will be reviewed. This is due to the outbreak management plan that we are again operating under. Therefore despite yesterday's announcement by the prime Minister we will continue to have face masks in place in all areas and pupils should ensure they bring them with them to school.

Vaccinations

We have been given a second date for the second set of jabs, however we have also been told that the team sent by VirginCare that day may not be able to complete all of the vaccinations that are due. They will start with Year 9 so that they can catch up on HPV, then they will vaccinate Year 7 so that they can catch up on first vaccines for those who have only just turned 12. Following that they will work through years 8, 10 and 11 in that order and there is no guarantee that they will all be seen. **You are therefore being asked to book vaccines at larger vaccinations centres at the point that the second vaccination is due. I would also urge parents of Year 11s in particular to do this for two reasons.** Firstly, the date for vaccinations is partway through the second set of mock exams – they may feel unwell after the



job and this may impact on their performance in assessments that may count towards final grades should exams be cancelled in the summer. Secondly, attendance in Year 11 is the lowest in the school, partly due to the fact that they have had higher cases of covid than other groups. We definitely saw that vaccinations the first time round protected pupils' ability to attend school.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

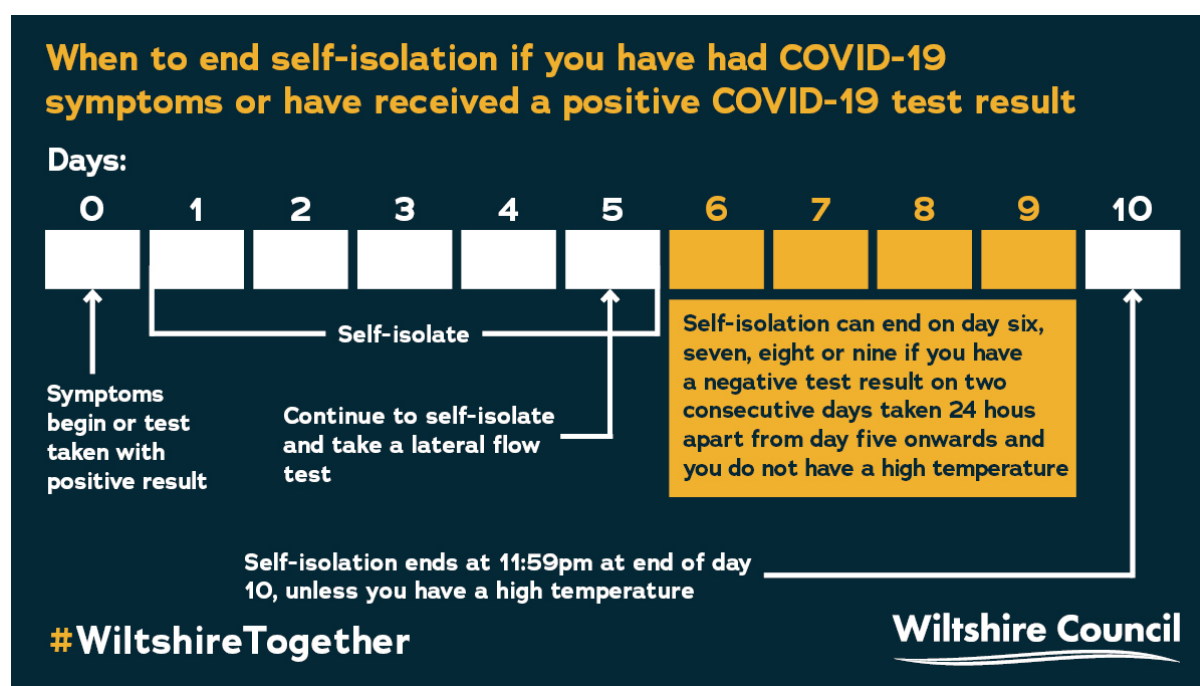
If your child develops [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home until the result is known and they are fever free (without medication) for at least 24 hours. This is the case **even if** they have previously tested negative on an LFD or PCR test.

- If negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to school/nursery/college once well.
- If positive, the child should isolate as a positive case (see below).

People who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate at home until they are well (48 hours fever free) and either:

- a) 10 full days have passed, or
- b) they have produced two negative LFD tests at least 24 hours apart, with the first taken no earlier than day 5.

If your child has a positive test but does not have symptoms, count the day they took the test as day 0. If they subsequently develop symptoms, shortly after a positive LFD test, a further PCR test is not required and the isolation period will be based on the original positive LFD test.



Note: Lingering coughs and changes to smell/taste are *not* a sign of ongoing infectiousness, so children can return to school if they have ended their self-isolation period (see above).

You can seek advice on COVID-19 symptoms from the [nhs.uk website](https://www.nhs.uk). If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting test result)



NHS Test and Trace will contact you to check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing, **advised to take extra caution**, and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

You are **not** required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine (note this is currently under review and may be updated to include a booster dose in due course).

In line with national guidance for households with COVID-19 infection, household and other close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should undertake daily LFD testing for a period of 7 days (or for 10 days from their last contact with the positive case). This is recommended for all close contacts who are not required to isolate aged 5 and over. [If not already provided, LFD tests are available via community testing sites [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Wiltshire Council](#), local pharmacies or you can order [online](#) for home delivery].

Children aged under 5 who are close contacts are not required to isolate and do not need to take part in daily LFD testing. If a child under the age of 5 lives with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 they will be advised to avoid contact with those at a higher risk of severe illness from contracting COVID-19 and to take a one-off PCR test as soon as possible.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and is not deemed to be fully vaccinated, will still be required to self-isolate as a household contact of someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing or someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read [the stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who need to self-isolate as close contacts should not go to work, education and childcare, or public areas. Exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with tasks such as essentials or food shopping and collection of prescriptions, you should ask friends or family from outside your household or order online. If you do not have access to the internet or people to help, you can contact the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub to request help. Simply call 0300 003 4576 or email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk. The Wellbeing Hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm.

There is also a Community Groups Directory of volunteers that can provide assistance at this time. You can find it online: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/4270/Community-Groups-Directory/pdf/Directory_v43_AD_01092020.pdf

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.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. If you are required to stay at home and self-isolate, or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate, and you are working on a low income and will lose pay because you cannot work from home or are in receipt of benefits, you may be eligible for a one-off self-isolation payment of £500 as part of the government's Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. For more information visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-test-and-trace or call either 0300 456 0110 or 119, or email benefits@wiltshire.gov.uk.



Those who were previously considered [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

If you have any health-related questions relating to COVID-19 or pre-existing conditions, please contact NHS 111 or your GP.

Instructions for household contacts not required to self-isolate

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#).

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community:

- If aged over 5 years, test daily using LFDs for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier.
- limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces (when not in school/nursery/college)
- wear a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces (including school or public transport) and when you are in close contact with other people
- limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
- Follow the guidance on [how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

You should follow the above advice for at least 10 days.

If you are a health or social care worker or student undertaking a work placement who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance](#) available that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).
For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#).
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places



- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

For more information please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

Carole Dean
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