

Date: 01/12/21

Warn and Inform for Year 6

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We have been advised by Oldham Council's Public Health Team that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within Year 6.

In line with the national guidance, children aged under 18 years are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 if *they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 themselves (see below for key symptoms)*.

Your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms.

People who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 are advised to get a PCR test, whether or not they have symptoms. If this test is positive, they must isolate for 10 days. PCR tests can be booked via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested-or-by-calling-119>.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

Please note people should not need to be re-tested via a Lateral Flow test or PCR test within 90 days of a previous confirmed positive test, unless new symptoms develop, in which case they should book a PCR.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The main 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).

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate, and you should arrange a test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or by calling 119.

If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result.

If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so.

Please visit the link to UK Health Security Agency's guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infections:

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

We understand your child might find it distressing to take a PCR test. However, if they show any of the 3 symptoms of COVID, and you are unable to obtain a negative PCR test result, they have a legal requirement to isolate for the full 10 day period.

What to do if your child develops other symptoms or is unwell

People may present with a wider range of symptoms, including a sore throat, a runny nose, sneezing, or a headache. Oldham Public Health would advise that if you develop any of these symptoms you should access a PCR test.

Determining if your child has COVID-19, even though they don't have one of the 3 main symptoms, is important to help protect the school from an outbreak. However, if your child does not have one of the three main symptoms of COVID, they do not need to isolate while waiting for the result of a PCR test. They only need to isolate if the test result is positive. Whilst there are still high numbers of cases in Oldham, finding all positive cases is important.

If your child would find taking a PCR distressing, or be unwilling to do this, another option would be for the members of their household to take a PCR test. Alternatively, doing a nasal Lateral Flow test might be easier for some pupils. Whilst this isn't as sensitive as a PCR test, it would give some reassurance if a negative result were obtained.

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 COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- allow ventilation in the house through opening windows
- Where possible maintain social distance
- 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

Test and Trace Support Payments

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This now applies to parents/ carers who cannot work from home and will lose income by self-isolating or staying at home to care for the child.

Further details are available via: <https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A. Booth
Head Teacher.