

Warn and Inform Letter

Date:12.01.22

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Dear Parent/ Carer,

We have been advised by Oldham Council's Public Health Team that there has been another confirmed case of COVID-19 within Year 1.

If your child is a close contact of a case of Covid-19

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), however close contacts should take a test.

If your child is aged between 5 and 18 and has been a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case they should take a daily Lateral Flow Test prior to attending school. Daily tests should be done for a period of 7 days from the last day of contact with the positive case. This will help quickly identify whether further pupils have contracted COVID-19 and reduce spread within the school.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts, are not advised to take daily Lateral Flow Tests.

You can collect Lateral Flow tests from many places in Oldham as well as having them delivered to your house. Please follow this link to see where you can obtain a test

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201170/coronavirus/2557/get_a_coronavirus_test/2 or order tests for home delivery here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If the Lateral Flow Test result is positive, your child must isolate for 10 days and should take a confirmatory PCR test which can be booked via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. If the Lateral Flow Test result is negative, your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms.

From 11th January, this confirmatory PCR test will no longer be needed following a positive Lateral Flow test unless you wish to apply for the Test and Trace Support Payment (details below).

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 PCR test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so. 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. They may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days if they have 2 negative LFTs 24 hours apart on days 6 and 7. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result. 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 that your child might find it distressing to take a PCR test. However, if they show any of the 3 symptoms of COVID-19, 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, but not limited to, a sore throat, a runny nose, sneezing, or a headache. Oldham Public Health would advise that if you or your child develop any of these symptoms then you should access a PCR test. If your child does not have one of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, 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.

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,

Alison Booth

Headteacher