

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



29th September 2020

Dear Parents

Advice to All Parents – Year 8 Covid Case

We are writing with an update regarding our notification, early this morning, of a positive case of COVID-19 in Year 8. Our well-rehearsed plans and risk assessment have ensured that we have been able to support the family concerned; we have been able to act swiftly to protect other students and their families from further spread of the virus; and education can now continue either onsite or remotely for all of our students. We appreciate that this morning was something we had to respond to quickly and parents will have had to respond to also. Thank you and apologies if this meant some last minute changes to your schedule for the day.

We have had a detailed telephone conversation with a Public Health England advisor this morning, who has confirmed we are taking appropriate action to ensure the safety of our school community.

We now have four confirmed cases in the school. After careful consideration and following the school's risk assessment, the majority of Year 8 and students unaffected by close contact via school transport, can now return to school tomorrow, Wednesday 30th September. Similar to our previous actions, **close contacts of the student in Year 8 have now been asked to stay at home until Friday 9th October, at which point they can return to school** (assuming no one else in the family has symptoms/tests positive). These contacts have been notified separately. Therefore, if you have not been contacted, it is safe for your child to return to school.

All areas of the school continue to receive enhanced cleaning through the day and every evening and all areas of the school accessed by the students who tested positive have had additional cleaning. Form tutors have updated members of their tutor group on the situation and offered them reassurance. We are regularly reviewing all actions we are taking, and we believe appropriate measures have been taken to continue to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Students must sit with their bubble (year group) on school transport [sitting in the same seats, and with the same people] both on the way to and from school. Students must clean their hands before getting on the bus in the morning, and upon arrival at QEGS. They must also make sure to use hand sanitiser as they leave their lessons before embarking on the bus at the end of the school day. This limits the risk of infection but also this could mean that whole bus groups do not need to self isolate. However, when students move seats or do not follow the guidance the risk of spreading infection is higher and the whole bus group may need to self isolate.

We remain in contact with the family concerned and we are delighted to say that they are generally well with only minor symptoms.

We will continue to update the community as more information arises. However, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. Should you have any concerns about this please contact your child's Form Tutor or Progress Leader by email to avoid busy phone lines.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/contact-us/>

Reminders:

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school, you must inform school of the absence and you must request a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

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You must also notify us of a positive test outcome using this school designated telephone number 07890 319042 during the school day or out of hours (even if this is late at night, the sooner we are notified the sooner we can respond and inform other parents of our actions). This telephone number **must only be used for positive Covid test outcomes**. This will ensure that parents can avoid other busy school telephone lines, notifying us quickly and at any time of day or night, enabling us to react and respond appropriately.

If a positive test is returned, the 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Further information about positive test outcomes is available at:

<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

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your 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 the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. 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.

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/>

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the DfE. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and to provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

Please do not contribute to or partake in any social media commentary or speculation about this case or any other matters related to this. It can be particularly upsetting for the family affected and we want to ensure that our time and efforts are devoted to keeping your children safe and well educated, whether that be in school or at home.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher