

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. 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.

Those children who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

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 and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information 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>

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.

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

If you are able, 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.

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/>

Yours sincerely.

Mr P Latham

Chief Executive Endeavour Academies

The letter above was provided by Public Health England and I am required to send this out. I wanted to provide further information.

Over the weekend, we have been informed that a student in Year 9 has tested positive for coronavirus. Following advice from Public Health England this morning, I wanted to contact you to provide more information about the process we have followed; I hope by doing this, I will help reduce any concerns that have arisen, and prevent any inaccurate rumours.

Following confirmation of a positive case within our school community, I am obliged to work with Public Health England and the Department for Education; they have provided us with guidance and support on how to begin the complex process of contact tracing. Contact tracing involves looking at close contacts and proximity contacts of the person who has tested positive. This involved cross-referencing lessons and class lists and speaking with staff and students. I was asked by the public health team to look back over the previous two days of the timetable before symptoms arose in the affected individual.

Once all of the facts had been established, I then discussed these with the Public Health Lead and took advice on which students to send home for isolation. Their isolation began from the last day they could have had contact with the person who has tested positive. Where possible, efforts are made to avoid sending the whole year group home.

As you know, it is not our decision as to whether or not whole year groups go home etc. We follow advice from Public Health England as we must do.

I understand that you will be concerned about the situation; additionally, you may be concerned that your child has not been asked to self-isolate. We have followed the guidance that we have been given but if you think that your child may have been a close contact or you would like to discuss this with us then please get in touch.

We are incredibly grateful for the students approaching this difficult situation so sensibly and maturely and as ever we are thankful of the support we receive from you as parents.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Latham

Chief Executive

Endeavour Academies