



Castlefields Primary School, Castlefields, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 5DQ

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Lee

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Dear Parents/Carers

We have received several reports of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our **Nursery, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5** classes and have been receiving advice from Shropshire Local Authority's Health Protection COVID-19 cell on the management of the situation. All contacts of positive cases (listed in the classes above) are advised to take a PCR test.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with the local Health Protection Team. 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.

Your child should continue to attend the school as normal if they remain well **unless they live in the same house as a confirmed case of COVID-19**. These pupils should have a PCR unless they had a positive PCR in the past 90 days & are symptom-free. After having a PCR test, they are advised to **not attend** the setting unless they have had:

- A negative PCR test result or
- Completed 10 days isolation after testing PCR positive

This advice about household contacts will remain in place for a short period of time in an effort to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting.

Public Health have advised that the PCR test should be repeated 4 or 5 days later to take into account the incubation period.

We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

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. As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- Limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- Wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- Limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable



- Taking part in regular LFD testing

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

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.

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.

The following pages contain a letter from the Director of Public Health in Shropshire and will help to explain why we may have to take certain actions in school.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Lee

Headteacher



Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to make you aware of additional interventions that may be considered by your child's education setting (step up measures) in response to meeting the DfE threshold for current cases of COVID-19 as outlined in the contingency framework. In outbreaks where the DfE threshold has been reached the following contingency measures may be introduced **short-term based on a local risk assessment**.

These measures will be considered as part of a local response in consultation with the local authority health protection team and this is supported by the DfE contingency framework.

Individual education settings all have a contingency plan in place for when they have met the DfE threshold for cases and they may include some or all the following measures:

PCR Testing

Household contacts of a confirmed case (PCR positive) should have a PCR test even if they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19. As part of the local response, household contacts **who are pupils** may be advised to remain at home unless they have a negative PCR result reported. This means that pupils who have a household contact who is a confirmed case (PCR positive) may be advised by the education setting to take a PCR test and not attend the setting while they are waiting on the result. If the PCR result is negative, then pupils would be recommended to have a further PCR test 4 or 5 days after the first PCR as a precaution. If their first PCR was negative, they would be advised continue to attend the setting while they are waiting on their second PCR result unless they develop any of the **3 main symptoms of COVID-19**.

The **3 main symptoms** of COVID-19 are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of taste / smell

Everyone who is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (PCR positive) is recommended to have a PCR test. If they are not a household contact, they can continue to go about their routine activities, and do not need to isolate unless they have any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19.

It is also recommended that they have a further PCR 4 or 5 days after the first PCR. The PCR should not be repeated at less frequent intervals, and anyone who has had a positive PCR in the past 90 days should not be retested unless they have new symptoms.

Those infected with the current main COVID-19 variant, especially children, do not always show the typical COVID symptoms listed above. Anyone with any of the following **precautionary symptoms** associated with COVID-19 are recommended to have a PCR test but may continue to attend the setting while they are waiting on their results. Precautionary symptoms may include:

- Headaches
- Aches & pains
- Feeling tired without any good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Tummy ache in children

These symptoms can be experienced by someone with a different illness other than COVID-19, and you should consider contacting 111 for medical advice if required.

Twice weekly LFT testing of all pupils from Year 7 upwards and staff in all education settings is recommended, unless the person has symptoms of COVID-19 / has tested PCR positive in the past 90 days. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should have a PCR test and **not an LFT test.**

What to expect if there is an outbreak in your child's education setting

Education settings are no longer required to identify close contacts of COVID-19 in their setting. If there is a confirmed case in the setting, they will send you a "warn and inform" letter to let you know that this is the case. Pupils who have mixed closely with the confirmed case e.g. same class / group of friends (if known) will be advised to have a PCR test if they have not already had one in the previous 4/5 days nor tested PCR positive in the previous 90 days. If there is a large outbreak the school will **not** be expected to notify you every time another confirmed case is reported. They will, however, provide general updates on the progress of the outbreak.

Temporary control measures that may be considered in your child's education setting when they have an outbreak and where continued transmission within the setting is likely to be happening (DfE threshold has been reached). These are referred to as step up measures and include the following actions:

- Reducing mixing between year groups / classes
- Introducing the use of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for anyone age 11 and over, if appropriate
- Cancelling large school gatherings e.g., assemblies, open evenings, scheduled sports events, residential school trips and school staff meetings. This will be based on a risk assessment discussed with the local authority health protection cell.
- Moving to on-line learning if case numbers are high and / if there are staffing issues (again, following a discussion with the local authority).

In accordance with the DfE contingency framework Step up measures will be introduced for as short a period as possible to be effective and will be reviewed every 14 days to determine whether or not they are still required or can be stepped down.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.



Rachel Robinson

Director of Public Health Shropshire

