



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/TA

16 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have been informed that there have been three further confirmed cases of COVID-19 (a member of staff and 2 students in different year groups).

Having liaised with Public Health Lincolnshire and followed the national guidance, we have identified a group of students who have been in direct prolonged contact with the 2 students who tested positive. These students have received a separate letter requiring them to self-isolate for the required period.

I can reassure you that your child has NOT been identified as being in this group and so should continue to attend school unless they have already been asked to self-isolate in which case you will have been contacted by the school.

Following national guidance, as these are separate cases of COVID-19 in school and are not directly related, only identified close contacts and not a year-group bubble are required to self-isolate. **The school, therefore, remains open to all year groups as normal.**

The confirmed staff case has not resulted in any students requiring to self-isolate.

I am aware that there has been an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in school since half term. I discussed this at length with Public Health Lincolnshire on Friday 13 November. They have reassured me that the protection measures in place at school are appropriate and that the school is doing all that it can to minimise the risk of transmission. Indeed, they have informed me that William Farr has amongst the lowest number of Covid-19 cases in Lincolnshire secondary schools.

Going forward, to avoid you receiving a number of similar Covid-19 letters from me, **I will now contact you at the end of each week to update you on any confirmed Covid-19 cases which have occurred.** Please be assured that **if there are any cases which require your child to self-isolate, you will be informed immediately after an investigation is completed.** If you receive no contact from the school, this means that your child can attend school as normal.

Please can I remind all parents that if your child or a member of your household develops symptoms/has gone for a test, your child MUST NOT come to school until the test result has been confirmed as negative.

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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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/>



I fully understand that this is an anxious time for our school community. Please be reassured that the school has, and will continue to take all preventative measures possible to protect your child and the school community from COVID-19.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Knowler', written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher