



THE WELLS ACADEMY

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Advice to All Parents – Confirmed COVID case

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you today, to inform you that we have been advised by Public Health England of a small number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Academy.

In line with the latest government and Public Health England advice, any affected pupils and staff, identified through our contact tracing process, as well as the NHS Track and Trace notification system, are now self-isolating as a precautionary measure.

Due to the number of staff who are self-isolating, as a precautionary measure and in line with government guidelines, we have taken the difficult decision to close our **Year 7 bubble from Friday 20th November**, with a view to welcoming these students back on Monday 30th November, due to staffing shortages. The academy will be open to all to all other year groups (Year 8 – Year 11) other than those who are self-isolating.

This closure is not a result of infections but merely due to the fact that we are not able to staff the school due to the number of staff having to self-isolate as a precaution.

We know that this may cause some concern but I want to reassure you that, as an Academy, we take the healthy, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and the wider school community extremely seriously and are working in partnership with the local public health authority to ensure the appropriate steps are taken. We are also working closely with the Department for Education, and the Trust, to ensure the risk of further transmission continues to be minimised as much as possible, and we will remain in contact with our parents and carers to provide regular updates and information.

Additionally, our contact tracing and robust health and safety measures have allowed us to effectively respond to this matter and ensure the Academy continues to be safe for all other pupils and staff, and your child should continue to attend if they remain in good health and not show any COVID-19 symptoms.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps that we can all take to reduce the risk of spreading infection.



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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/>

Yours sincerely



Mr Shepherd

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