



Smithdon High School
Mr J Hirst
Headteacher
Downs Road, Hunstanton
Norfolk PE36 5HY
Telephone: 01485 534541
e-mail: office@smithdonhigh.org.uk
website: www.smithdonhigh.org.uk

Ref: JHi/AGi/LT

15 November 2020

Dear Parents,

Following our involvement in the *Covid 19 Schools Infection Survey*, we have been made aware of a member of staff in our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19. This person had not displayed any symptoms of the virus - and have not developed any symptoms since the test, which means they are referred to asymptomatic.

In a completely unlinked situation, a parent has this evening reported a positive test result for a single student in Year 9. That student has not been in school since their symptoms first began. These two incidents are not related in any way and there has been no in-school transmission in relation to this student's case.

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.

The small number of children, staff and other educational visitors to Smithdon, who have been in close contact with the staff member who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have been contacted directly already. Those who have been in close contact with the student will be notified by telephone in the next 2 hours and instructed to isolate. If you have not heard from a member of school staff by 10pm this evening, your child is at no additional risk and should come to school as normal.

All close contacts will receive a letter informing them that they must stay at home for 14 days from the date of their contact.

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

However, we will be further tightening our measures in school and would ask that all parents avoid coming onto the school site unless absolutely necessary. As such, if your child forgets equipment, lunch, ingredients, etc. we will not be accepting those items to deliver to your child for the foreseeable future and allowances will be made by staff if they do not have key items to hand.

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/>

We thank you for your continued support at this time and hope that you and your family remain symptom-free and safe from the virus.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Hirst
Headteacher

Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School