



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Advice to All Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware that five additional members of our school community have tested positive for COVID 19 over the weekend. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are doing everything we can to operate safely, within government guidelines. We can confirm the cases are from separate classes and areas of school, and our effective practice has ensured there has been minimal close contact. We continue to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England, who have confirmed that, whilst our procedures and protocols are robust, the local infection rate is high.

It is worth noting that some of our positive cases in school did not display the primary symptoms. If your child or someone in the household is unwell, we ask you to be cautious before deciding to send your child in this week.

Isolation guidance has changed from 14th December. Those who have been in close contact with the individuals who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days. If you or your child are advised to isolate, it is vital that you do stay at home.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Only pupils who have been contacted directly need to isolate; siblings do not need to isolate so long as there are no symptoms in the household. Please be reassured that coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness for most people.

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 10 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 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. In these cases, 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 10 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.



ASPIRATIONS

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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/> Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions/concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson
Executive Principal