



The Orchard Primary School
Nurture Learn Grow

4th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have been made aware that we have a confirmed positive case of coronavirus in our school community.

We know that you may find this concerning but we monitor the situation in school and work closely with Public Health England to ensure that guidance is followed.

This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child and the school. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The **school remains open to all children and your child should continue to attend as normal** if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing to help identify cases promptly.

You are not required to self-isolate if you are a contact for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- You are fully vaccinated
- You are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- You have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- You are not able to be vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses or that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check you are legally required to isolate. If you are not legally required to self-

isolate, you will be given advice on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. You should try to ask friends or family to help with grocery shopping, picking up medication or walking the dog. 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.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace.

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 isolate, you can help protect others by:

- Considering a PCR test
- 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
- Limiting contact with those you know to be clinically extremely vulnerable
- Taking part in regular lateral flow 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 and arrange to have a PCR COVID-19 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.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Get vaccinated
- 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
- 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
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering of aged 11 and over when it is hard to stay away from people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly lateral flow testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). You are encouraged to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

Christine Haslam
Headteacher