

10 July 2021

School Update – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, may I apologise for disturbing your weekend. Unfortunately, we have been notified of a second positive case of COVID-19 in Year 9. This case is not connected to an earlier case in Year 9 that was reported earlier in the week. As a number of students and staff have been identified as close-proximity contacts and an increasing number of staff are self-isolating, we are now in a position where we need to collapse the Year 9 bubble for all students and move learning online for the rest of this term.

Following advice from Public Health England health protection team, all Year 9 students will be required to self-isolate and work from home for the rest of this term. **Your child must now stay at home and self-isolate until 17 July 2021.** as required by the Public Health, England, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation) (England) Regulations 2020. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

As learning will move online, students in Year 9 should follow their normal timetable as most lessons will be delivered live on MS Teams. If your child does not have access to the necessary technology to access lessons, please contact the school at office@bewdley.worcs.sch.uk and we will attempt to arrange this for you.

This requirement means not leaving home for a holiday for the full 10 days.

At the end of the 10-day period of self-isolation, if your child is well, then they can return to usual activities on 18 July 2021. We understand that your child will not be back into school this academic year and we can only apologise for the disruption this is causing you and your family. We have seen in the news that there is hopefully a change to the system of school contact tracing coming in the autumn term, but for now we have to continue to isolate students where there may be a risk of spread.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period.

Please see the link to the National Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

Head Teacher Dave Hadley-Pryce BSc MSc FRSA

The Bewdley School, Stourport Road, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1BL

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If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19 they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms started. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this should be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

Please inform the school if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID-19.

All other household members, even if well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If your child has symptoms, try and keep them as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important that they stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough **and/or**
- high temperature **and/or**
- a loss of, or change in, 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 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

Financial support if you have to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating.

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If you are on a low income and you need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating, you may be eligible for financial support from your local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:

- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- They are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - income-based Employment and Support Allowance
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Pension Credit
- Their child or young person is:
 - aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
 - has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Discretionary payments are also available for people on low incomes who are not on means-tested benefits but who may still face hardship as a result of the requirement to self-isolate. Your local authority may have additional eligibility criteria in place for discretionary payments.

If you are eligible, you will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay you receive currently. If you are unsure which local authority you should claim from, you can check on Find your Local Council on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Your local authority will contact your child's school to verify the information you provide about your child as part of the process of confirming whether you are eligible for a payment.

You can see the full eligibility criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme and find out how to apply at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>.

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria listed above and would like to apply to your local authority for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, you should provide this letter to your local

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authority to support your application. You will not be able to make an application for a payment from the Test and Trace

Support Payment scheme without this letter. Further information is available at

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

Further information

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Information for **support during self-isolation** can be obtained here:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help_coronavirus_covid-19/2305/coronavirus_covid-19_self-isolation_and_when_you_need_to_do_this and from Here2Help

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> or 01905 768053 then press option 3. The Here2Help opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.

For health-related support visit Starting Well (Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust):

<https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/covid19>

Thank you for your continued understanding, Yours sincerely

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Mr Hadley-Pryce - Headteacher