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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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Our Ref: MQSM

13 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been made aware of another student in our school community who has tested positive for COVID-19. As far as we can ascertain this is not connected with the previous cases.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. The advice we are being given is evolving. They have said **“the default should NOT be to self-isolate the whole class or bubble in a secondary setting or course”**. This has given us the latitude to take a more nuanced approach and not send home a complete year group or cohort.

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 and staff who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have been informed that they must stay at home for 14 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. In addition to students and staff isolating, we now have a number of staff who are looking after dependants who are isolating, or where a childcare setting has closed.

The school will do everything reasonable to maintain provision in school, however we are reaching a dipping point where this may not be possible due to staff absence. If this occurs we will have to send year groups home on rotation. The year group will depend on staff absence, however, we will do our best to keep students in Year 11 and Year 13, who are in their final exam year, in school.

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/>

Should your child be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, then you must follow the advice clearly.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher