

19th October 2020

Dear Parents,

The following letter is a standard template that schools are asked to send out in the event of a single positive COVID-19 case. I have tailored it somewhat for our setting. If you have any queries, please call 01677 422419, or email admin@bedalehighschool.org.uk. We have been very fortunate (in comparison to schools around us), to have reached Week 7 of this term without any positive cases. It was always going to happen eventually, and sadly, it is likely that this will not be the only one as we move forward. However, we have strong systems and procedures in place to safeguard students and staff as much as possible. As always, thank you for your understanding and support with this.

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

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 school remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review.

We have already contacted the parents of any students who need to stay at home (from being contacts of the positive case). If you have not had contact from us about this, your child is fine to come into school as normal.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. **Just in case they do test positive, it would be extremely helpful if they could make a list of anyone they have sat next to, travelled to school with, spent time with at break/lunch (students or staff), or anyone who they think could have come into closer contact with them for 2 days prior to the symptoms starting.**

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

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.

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 can, 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:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- 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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

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

Further Information

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Yours sincerely,

Tom Kelly

Headteacher

Bedale High School