

7th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I'd like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support and understanding at such a challenging time for us all and I wanted to provide an update to our current situation.

Firstly, I would like to thank those of you that have informed us promptly when a positive test has been received. This allows us to react, even at the weekends, to carry out the necessary track and trace and act accordingly. Please do carry on letting the school know if this is the case, any time of the day and including weekends. The MyEd App is manned over the weekends, as is the main school email account. You can also message the school directly via the school website.

After a period of time with no positive cases in school, we have been made aware of 2 staff and three students (one in Y7, one in Y10 and one in Y11) who have tested positive for COVID-19 over the last week or so. These 5 cases appear to be isolated and unrelated. We investigate every case individually and we have asked the Y7 student's tutor group to isolate with immediate effect. Following a very detailed track and trace investigation, we have identified the small number of additional Y7 close contacts who are isolating with immediate effect. We have carried out a thorough risk assessment and **no other students in Year 7 need to isolate**. Regarding the **Y10 and Y11 case**, our track and trace investigations and the subsequent risk assessment means we felt it safest to ask the **whole Y10 and Y11 bubbles to isolate** on this occasion. For the 2 staff, there were no close contacts identified on either occasion.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and we work 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.

We have already contacted the Y7, Y10 and Y11 parents directly and the identified students will be staying at home for 14 days. All other students, unless isolating for other reasons, do not need to self-isolate.

King Ethelbert School remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

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 should seek a test 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, King Ethelbert School or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home only.

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 or anyone in the household 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

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please be assured that the school continues to monitor the situation closely. We are grateful to parents and carers for working closely with us to keep us informed of any test results and we will, of course, inform parents and carers if their child needs to self-isolate at any time.

We send our love and best wishes to you and your families, especially those who have been directly affected by the virus.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Willis
Headteacher