

9th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday I was informed that a member of staff has tested positive for Covid-19. A positive test result for a member of staff or a student was perhaps inevitable and it does bring into sharp focus the need for us all to be vigilant and follow the guidelines for staying safe.

The routines and systems we have in place mean that the risk of the staff member having transmitted the virus to students is exceptionally low. Additionally, since receiving the information we have identified any potential risks and taken steps to address them.

A number of students have also been tested in the past week (not linked to the member of staff who has tested positive), but all of these results have come back negative.

On the advice from North Tyneside Council's Director of Public Health, Wendy Burke, there is no need for staff or parents to take any further action at this stage. The reason for this is that the school has been operating social distancing measures, face coverings, increased hand hygiene and a cleaning regime for frequently touched surfaces, and as a result the risk of transmission of infection to others who have been in school is low. These measures will continue to be strictly adhered to in school.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 i.e. a high temperature or continuous cough or loss of taste and smell, in line with national guidance from Public Health England they should be tested immediately and not attend school until the results have been received. If negative, you should contact the school prior to sending your child in. If positive, your child should:

- self isolate for 10 days and only return to school if well and without a high temperature and
- members of their household should self isolate for 14 days.

Please contact the school immediately if your child or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms. Those with symptoms should also access testing for Covid 19 and for details of how to do this please go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>.

I am pleased that the routines and precautions we have in place mean that despite a positive test we can be as confident as we can be that we have controlled transmission, but we will continue to reinforce the messages with everyone so that we all stay safe.

Best wishes



Jonathan Heath
Headteacher