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GENERAL ADVICE REGARDING COVID-19 CASE AT HERON HALL ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that today, Friday 27th November, we were notified that there has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school, a Year 7 student.

We have instructed students who were identified as a close contact not to attend school and to self-isolate for a specific period of time as calculated by PHE.

To reiterate, only these students will have to self-isolate, and we have contacted these families separately.

We know that you may find this concerning but 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.

With the safety and well-being of all a priority, and following the advice received today from Public Health England (PHE) and the Department for Education (DfE), we have instructed students who were identified as a close contact not to attend school and to self-isolate for a specific period of time as calculated by PHE.

All other students must continue to attend school, in line with PHE guidance. Based upon what we know and our segregation of year group 'bubbles', other year group students are highly unlikely to have come into close enough contact to require isolation.

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. 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 .

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority. 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'. 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 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

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

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

COVID-19 Symptoms

If your child is well now, they do not need any specific treatment. However, you should be vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 infection and where these are observed seek a test.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell

If you, or anyone in your family, has these symptoms now or in the future, arrange to have a test as soon as possible, stay at home for 10 days from when your symptoms started, even if you are mildly unwell. All other members of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. This is to protect others in your community. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. If you or your child become very unwell, then contact NHS 111 for advice.

Testing for people with symptoms is available and more information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Precautions

- There are things you can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- When you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available

- 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

Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. It is vital that we follow government guidance and the advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team. We realise that you may have questions about the situation; if this is the case, please email office.heron@chat-edu.org.uk. Please note that we will not be able to discuss any details relating to the individual case but will do our best to answer any general questions that you may have as promptly as we can.

Further Information

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

I will continue to update you as appropriate.



Mr. A. Barzey
Head Teacher
Heron Hall Academy