



Date 13/12/21

## Letter to ALL parents/carers: re. having met the definition of a Covid 19 outbreak

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been made aware of several members of our school/college/nursery/childcare setting/community who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with our local Public Health team. This letter is to inform you of the current situation, and to provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If any children/students/staff have been identified as contacts of the confirmed case(s), they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will be advised to take a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.

The school remains open, and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

Please see the enclosed updated local Parent/Carer Flowchart for further information on:

- What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19
- Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who is symptomatic and is waiting for a PCR test result
- Information on self-isolation

The [Department for Education Contingency Framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities and directors of public health can recommend measures described in the contingency framework for individual education and childcare settings, if the number of positive cases increases substantially.

- **As part of the response to COVID-19 cases in education settings the local Public Health team are recommending 7-days of daily testing with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for students in Year 3 and above when somebody else in their home**

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

The Firs Lower School • Station Road, Ampthill, Bedford MK45 2QR

Telephone: (01525) 402735

Email: [office@firslower.org](mailto:office@firslower.org) • Web [www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk)



**has tested positive.** (from the date of the first COVID-19 symptoms in the household, or from the date of the first positive test if there were no symptoms.)

- **Public Health are also encouraging families with younger children (i.e. in Year 2 and below) to follow this advice if they feel able to do so.** Transmission in household settings is very common, even when people are vaccinated.
- **Household contacts of a positive case who are in Year 3 and above are also strongly encouraged to take a **daily LFD test before school or college for 7 days** and attend only if their lateral flow test is negative.**
- **Families with younger children (i.e. in Year 2 and below) are also advised to follow this advice if they feel able to do so.**
- People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days **do not** need to participate in daily LFD testing or be re-tested with PCR.

See link below for details of how and where to get LFD tests:

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid\\_tests](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid_tests)

The following measures will also help to reduce the risk of you, and anyone you live with, becoming ill with COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated – **young people aged 12 and over can have their COVID-19 vaccination** through their school, at a local catch-up clinic, or by booking an appointment at a large vaccination centre. More information about the vaccination programme is available from <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information/> Book an appointment at one of the large vaccination centres by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination> or by calling 119.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.
- 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.
- Meet people outside and avoid crowded areas.
- Open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside.
- Wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places.
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for Years 7 and above). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

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

Yours sincerely,



Adam J.G. Campbell  
Headteacher