Date 24/1/22

CLOSE CONTACTS parents / carers in YR : warn and inform when there has been an outbreak of cases in the setting

(CBC letter - Updated 11.01.22, last reviewed 17.01.22)

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been notified of a number of positive cases of COVID-19 in our school. Your child has been identified as someone who is likely to have had contact with one of these individuals as part of a class or group.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the current situation, and to advise you on what to do next. We are monitoring the situation closely and are working with our local Public Health team to put temporary, additional measures in place to help to reduce the risk of onward transmission within our setting.

Daily Testing for Contact of COVID-19 (DTCC)

As per Government guidance fully vaccinated adults, and those aged between 5–18 years and 6 months who are contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case should take daily Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. However, due to the current challenges in accessing LFD tests, we recommend where possible that your child tests on day 1, 4 and 7 within the 7-day period. Contacts should take this test before they leave the house for the first time each day.

- Packs of 7 lateral flow tests can be collected from various location in Central Bedfordshire: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid_tests or can be ordered online (subject to availability) at: https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

- During the 7-day testing period, if the LFD test result is negative, then the close contact can continue with normal activities for that day. Other members of your household can continue with normal activities provided your child does not test positive or develop symptoms within the 7-day testing period.

- If an individual undertaking DTCC has a positive LFD test result, they should self-isolate as per Government Guidance. They currently do not need to undertake a confirmatory PCR test.

- Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily lateral flow testing, but they should limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

- Close contacts who are not exempt from self-isolation should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. Please read the stay at home guidance for more information on this.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

The Firs Lower School • Station Road, Ampthill, Bedford MK45 2QR
Telephone: (01525) 402735
Email: office@firslower.org • Web **www.firslower.co.uk**

- Clinically extremely vulnerable people should be supported to minimise their contact with people identified as cases or close contacts, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

- **If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible.** This can be arranged via https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119

- If your child does develop COVID-19 symptoms, you can seek advice from the NHS at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/

- If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you should contact NHS 111 at https://111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

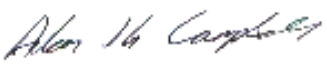
There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now or attend a drop-in site. See https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in for clinic locations and times.
- 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 – and on school/public transport
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). 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