

19/11/2021

Dear Parent or Carer

We have been notified of a **confirmed case of COVID-19** within our school community. **Your child has not been identified as a close contact.** This letter is to give you general information only, you do not need to take any action unless your child develops symptoms.

General information

What to do if your child becomes a contact of someone with COVID-19

In line with the national guidance, children aged under 18 years are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms.

People who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 are advised to get a PCR test, whether or not they have symptoms. If this test is positive, they must isolate for 10 days.

- **LFD testing for household contacts**

Public Health are asking all students and staff members **who live with someone who has COVID** to do daily lateral flow tests (LFD test) before coming into school (unless exempt - see below). Pupils should start this testing from the day their household member either became **unwell with COVID or tested positive** if they did not have symptoms and continue this for 10 days.

Please remember:

- if your child tests negative, they can continue attending school.
- if your child has a positive LFD result, they must start isolating, have a PCR test and inform school.
- if they develop COVID symptoms, they should book a PCR test. It is important that people with COVID symptoms do not rely on a negative LFD test and they should have a PCR test. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home.

Exemptions to household testing

The groups exempt from this advice are:

- Children aged 5 and under
- Children in Key Stage 1
- SEND schools – please let school know if someone tests positive in your household
- Any child, aged between 5 – 16, who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days (unless **new** symptoms develop)

Routine LFD asymptomatic testing

We strongly encourage parents to support their children to test at home **twice a week** and to register their results, even when negative. This important testing helps to pick up the infection early, preventing further spread, keeping families, friends and schools protected from COVID.

Face Coverings

Pupils attending a Salford high schools or further education should be wearing a face covering in all communal areas and corridors.

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate and you should arrange a test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or by calling **119**.

- If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result.
- If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so.

Please visit the link to Public Health England's guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infections: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

In Salford:

1. We are **still advising immediate isolation** to anyone who is suffering three **classical symptoms**, namely: new continuous cough; a high temperature (fever); or a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell, or have a positive test result
2. Children who are unwell with any of the symptoms below are **not expected to isolate immediately** but we would advise that they go for a PCR test to rule out COVID-19.

The non-classical symptoms associated with the virus can include:

- Vomiting/nausea/off your food
- Diarrhoea
- Sleeping more than usual/extreme tiredness
- Listless/restless/agitated
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling cold
- Headache
- Severe body aches
- Sore throat
- Congested or runny nose
- Skin rash
- Complaining of anything that is not feeling themselves.

3. To book a PCR test please visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test and, when prompted, click the box **'I've been in contact with a positive person > I found out in another way that I'm a contact'** option

Test and Trace Support Payments

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This now applies to parents/ carers who cannot work from home and will lose income by self-isolating or staying at home to care for the child.



Mesne Lea Primary School

Working together for individual

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Further details are available via: <https://www.salford.gov.uk/benefits/test-and-trace-support-payments/my-child-is-having-to-isolate/>

Please remember, although COVID-19 is circulating in the community, usual childhood illnesses are too; and it is important that these are not missed. Please contact your GP or NHS111 if you are worried; or call 999 if seriously unwell.

If you have any questions or concerns please refer to the government website; or call The Spirit of Salford Helpline on 0800 952 1000 Further information is included in the [information sheet](#) below.

Best wishes

R.L.Munro