

12th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Update on Covid-19 and Dormers Wells High School

Further to my letter on Friday, as of today, we have now reported to Public Health England a total of 2 members of our school community of approximately 1400 adults and children who have tested positive for Covid symptoms this term. Centralised classroom seating plans allow us to quickly identify any close contacts who are then required to return home to self-isolate. Please be assured that we are continuing to work very closely with Public Health England who advise and guide us about appropriate response to any Covid-19 case on site. May I remind you once more of the following important information.

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must **not** come to school and 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-acoronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

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.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stayat-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19>

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, 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.

Symptoms of Covid-19

The most common symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



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Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

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If anyone in your household develops any of these symptoms, however mild, they need to stay at home (10 days for the person with symptoms and 14 days for the rest of the household).

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

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

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- 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.

Face masks

The use of face masks in corridors, stairways and travelling between lessons at Dormers Wells High School continues to be **strongly advised** for all students and staff unless they have a medical exemption. This also applies to when students are queuing up to enter the school building and lunch queues. Ensuring good hygiene practices for face coverings worn in school is very important. All single use masks should be carefully disposed of after use and reusable masks should be regularly washed at home.

Sanitisers

Please continue to reinforce with your child the importance of good hand hygiene. We require students to sanitise their hands on the way into school, before and after lessons and before and after lunch – these are all very important preventative measure. Hand sanitisers are mounted on walls throughout the site, foot pump sanitizers are at each entrance to the school and it is available inside each classroom. Your child can bring their own small hand sanitiser to school if they wish – the alcohol-based sanitisers are recommended by Clinicians.

Attendance

May I remind you that attendance at school remains a statutory requirement unless your child or another member of the household has symptoms or has been told to self-isolate.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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