



Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parent Carer of pupils in P5 Mrs Loughins' Class,

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support this morning when we had to close your child's class bubble as a result of a positive Covid-19 Case. It is very much appreciated.

I have made initial contact with the Public Health Agency and I am awaiting a member of the medical team to call me back. Due to the higher than normal number of cases in schools across the country at present the PHA are extremely busy and may take some time to return my call.

After my discussion with the PHA they will issue me with a letter to give to parents and carers outlining what to do next, however, in the interest of making the process a little quicker for parents/carers, I have copied and pasted the information given to me from a previous letter linked to a positive test giving you information on what to do next including getting your child to complete a PCR Test.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT OFFICAL GUIDANCE WILL COME FROM PHA AND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS ONLY BASED ON INFORMATION WE AS A SCHOOL RECIEVED WHEN DEALING WITH A PREVIOUS CONFIRMED CASE, however, it is highly likely that the information will be the same.

Advice to self-isolate and arrange a COVID test

The advice is different depending on whether your child has had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days (see below).

Even if you follow the advice in this letter and your child is well and has negative PCR results, they should avoid visiting hospitals or care homes for 10 days.

They should also minimise contact with people who are at higher risk if they were to catch COVID-19, such as the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.

What to do if your child is a close contact but has no symptoms

A) If your child has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days

If your child has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days AND has no new symptoms, you do not need to take any action and your child can continue to attend school **(however, at this point your**



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child's school classroom is closed for cleaning so they should not attend until told to do so by the school) We do not advise retesting in recently infected people who are well, because PCR tests can continue to find non-infectious parts of the virus for several weeks.

However, if your child does develop new symptoms they should stay at home and get a free PCR test as soon as possible. They should self-isolate at home until they get the result of that test.

B) If your child has not had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days

Please arrange a free PCR test as soon as possible even if they do not have any symptoms. They should self-isolate at home until they get the result of the test. The rest of the household can carry on with their normal activities as long as all are well. If that test result is negative your child can return to school. **(however, at this point your child's school classroom is closed for cleaning so they should not attend until told to do so by the school)** However please book another PCR test 8 days after their last known contact with the confirmed case. If either test is positive they should self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was done. How to book a test You can book a test online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phoning 119.

As mentioned, the above guidance is likely to come from PHA, so getting your child booked in for a PCR test quickly will allow them to get back to school asap as soon as EA Cleaning Services have cleaned the rooms. If you do not wish for your child to take a PCR test, then they must self-isolate at home for 10 days.

I have contacted the EA Cleaning Service already this morning to request that your child's classroom is cleaned. Your child will be unable to return until this has been completed or updated advice is received from EA or PHA. I will contact parents / carers by text message to inform them when school will reopen. If school cannot reopen for your child's class from tomorrow (Thursday 2nd September) your child's class teacher will begin remote learning via SeeSaw and will be in touch in due course if this is the case.

Thanks for your support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Fulton
Principal