



Our reference: CTALET5/LH

24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have, this week, been notified of a number of further confirmed cases of COVID-19 at CCHS within both the staff and student community; this includes cases from all seven year groups. Almost all of these cases have been asymptomatic and identified due to twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing; this emphasises the importance of keeping up with regular testing. Thank you for doing this as it is clearly identifying these asymptomatic cases.

Please be reassured that for most young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. NHS Test and Trace will undertake contact tracing and may contact you to inform you that your child has been identified as a close contact. In line with the latest government guidelines that were released in August 2021, identified close contacts who are under 18 years and 6 months of age, **do not** need to self-isolate. Instead, they are advised to get a COVID-19 PCR test. If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace your child should continue attending school and you should arrange from them to have a PCR COVID-19 test. Only if this test is positive or your child is displaying one of the three COVID-19 symptoms do they need to refrain from school and self-isolate. As a reminder, the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child does test positive for COVID-19 they should stay at home for the 10-day isolation period and the school will arrange remote education so that they can continue their learning, if they are well enough to do so. Remote education will not be extended to children who are absent for other reasons. We will continue to review our risk assessment and outbreak management plan and adhere to the protective measures in place at school. These measures include hygiene and cleaning measures and keeping spaces well ventilated. Secondary school students and all households should continue to test twice weekly at home, as you have already been doing. If you receive a positive result from a lateral flow test, you should seek a PCR as soon as possible and then follow the isolation guidance as above.

### What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID19?

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

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Household members no longer need to isolate if they are under 18 years of age or are double vaccinated. Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

#### 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.

Do:

- 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.

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

Kind regards

***C Taylor***

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Head of School