



## **St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

### **Questions & Answers – Management of Suspected and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19**

I am writing to answer some of the many questions you may have about the management of suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19. The information is based upon the current guidance and as always this may change. I will try to keep you up to date as much as possible

#### **Question 1: What will happen if a member of staff or child shows one or more symptoms of COVID-19 (temperature or 37.8 °C or above, new continuous cough, change to or loss of sense of taste / smell?)**

If the child or member of staff are in school, we would isolate them in a designated room and arrange for them to go home immediately. It is recommended that staff wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if they are supporting a symptomatic child and 2 metre distance cannot be maintained.

Parents will be advised that the child needs to isolate at home along with **all** other household members and follow **Stay at Home Guidance** and arrange testing via <https://www.nhs/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

OR by phoning **119**

### **PLEASE LET SCHOOL KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE TEST.**

#### **Question 2: What do I do if the test is negative?**

If the test is negative, phone school and agree a return date for your child to return to school. Your child can return to school as long as they have not had a high temperature for 48 hours and have not been told to isolate because they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case or a household contact of a possible / confirmed case.

#### **Question 3: What do I do if the test is positive?**

Your child will need to continue with their 10 days isolation at home. They can return after 10 days if they have not had a high temperature or gastrointestinal symptoms (vomiting and diarrhoea) for 48 hours. Others in the household will need to continue with their 14 day 'isolation at home' period and should get tested if they develop symptoms of Covid-19.

#### **Question 4: What will happen if someone in my child's 'bubble' tests positive for Covid-19?**

School will take all necessary actions as advised by Public Health, the Department for Education and Cumbria Local Authority. School will inform all parents within the bubble, that an individual has tested positive, as close contacts from the bubble will need to go home and isolate for 14 days from the date they were last in contact with the individual who has tested positive. The wider household **do not** need to isolate. Adhering to safeguarding and GDPR regulations school will not identify any individuals.

#### **Question 5: If there is a confirmed case in school, does the whole school need to close?**

We will follow advice and guidance from Public Health, the Department for Education and Cumbria Local Authority. The whole school does not need to close on public health grounds. It is expected that only the class or bubble of a confirmed case will need to be isolated for 14 days.

Each confirmed case will be dealt with directly and information sent out to parents outlining what you need to do. Individual bubbles may be closed or it may be all bubbles in the school may need to close so children and staff can isolate.

#### **Question 6: How will I find out if my child's bubble needs to isolate?**

School will send you an email and a text message asking you to check your emails. The email will contain a letter which will give you some information about the situation and information on what to do.

Please check your emails regularly for updates from school.

**Question 7: Can siblings attend school if their brother or sister is asked to isolate because they have been in contact with a confirmed case?**

Yes, as long as the siblings have not been identified as a close contact of a positive case, they can attend school. It is only identified contacts who need to isolate (not contacts of contacts).

If a child who is isolating, because they are a contact, goes on to develop symptoms, then the siblings should isolate.

**Question 8: If my child was a contact of a confirmed case and gets tested and the test is negative, can they return to school?**

No, your child should complete the 14 days isolation period.

**Question 9: What educational support will my child be provided with if they have to isolate?**

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, school will offer remote education. We will use the learning platforms Seesaw and Tapestry to set tasks for pupils and staff will feedback on work pupils have uploaded.

**Question 10: Does school still provide meals, for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals, if a pupil needs to isolate?**

If your child is entitled to free school meals and is unable to attend school, because they are required to self-isolate or if local lockdown arrangements are in place, school will work with their suppliers to prepare meals or food parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are not in attendance because they:

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- are not attending as a result of local lockdown arrangements.

There is no requirement to provide universal infant free school meals to infant pupils who are not in school.

**Question 11: Should I download the NHS Covid track and trace app?**

This is a personal choice; however, it is highly recommended that you download the NHS Covid track and trace app.

Please be reassured that all staff are fully implementing our risk assessments to help keep your child / ren safe in school.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email

[head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk)

[admin@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk)

or phone 01946 66356.

Take care

*S. Starkie*