



The Dove Federation

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Dear Parents/carers

Up until now we have been sending out a letter to all parents in a class/group where we have been notified that a pupil or member of staff has a symptom of Covid-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste or sense of smell). This letter was written by Norfolk County Council and forms part of their response to Covid-19 and was meant to inform parents of a potential case. Since the start of term there has been lots of discussions between head teachers within Norfolk and Norfolk County Council about this letter and whether by sending it out we would be adding to parents, staff and pupil's anxiety particularly when it is taking longer to be able to access a test and test results are taking longer to arrive back. We are also fully aware that as we enter further into cough and cold season and with the return to school children and adults are going to be presenting with Covid-19 symptoms but when tested do not have the illness.

Having held discussions with other schools in the cluster, Norfolk County Council and our chair of Governors and with Norfolk County Council changing their guidance on the use of this letter we have now decided that we will no longer be sending home a letter notifying parents that a child or staff member is being tested for Covid-19. By taking this decision this brings us in line with what some other local schools are doing.

Please be reassured that anybody who has or has had a high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste or sense of smell will not be allowed on to the school premises until they have been tested for Covid-19 and they have received the results or has isolated for a time period of 10 days since their symptoms first started. We would like to reassure you that the school is following national guidance and has put in place the Local Authority's Compliance Code for educational settings to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Guidance states that whilst a child or adult is being tested a setting remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend as normal. We will keep this under review.

If we are made aware that a member of our school community has tested positive for Covid-19 we will immediately contact Norfolk Public Health, Norfolk County Council and parents/carers to ensure the appropriate action is taken.

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. We would also recommend getting a test as soon as possible. Information on testing is available via the links below:

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/test-trace>

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

<http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/our-services/covid-19-testing-key-workers/>

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

By household members staying at home for 14 days you will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able you should, 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

Further information on isolation is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If your child is isolating due to developing symptoms themselves, or due the household isolation or being identified as a close contact please let us know as soon as possible in the same way you normally report absence. This will help us to take the right precautions at the setting.

Symptoms

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

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

- Follow the guidance on social distancing
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser 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

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- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

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

Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you have further questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Mrs Disney

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