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Dear Parent/Carer,

Advice for families about COVID-19

This morning, I have been advised that there have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 across school, almost every class has at least one positive case in it. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to best support your child. Public Health England (PHE) inform me that this is the case across the city, in a number of schools, as families and friends socialise more after school and during the weekends. A review of the school risk assessment and COVID-19 procedures has been carried out and active prevention measures continue to remain in place.

PHE ask that if your child has tested positive they follow the national guidance and isolate appropriately and you inform school. If they have a sibling, we ask that that sibling tests daily for 10 days, they can come into school every day they are negative.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-covid-19-cases-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-following-negative-lfd-tests>

PHE are asking you to LFD test regularly, even if you do not currently have a positive case in your household, to identify the asymptomatic cases which will in turn help to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in our school community.

If your child is entitled to an income-based Free School Meal this will still be provided in the form of a voucher.

Online learning will be provided by the class teacher via Microsoft Teams or via the School Website, please be patient as it will take time to upload it all today as teachers are teaching fulltime in school.

If you need support with self-isolation Newcastle City Council's Welfare and Wellbeing Team may be able to help you. If you can, you should try to seek help from your friends, family and community first, or look online at www.newcastle.gov.uk for local support services. Where this is not possible, the Welfare and Wellbeing team can help.

Visit www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfare or call 0800 170 7001 or 0191 277 8000 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm Saturday) to get the support you need.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided they test negative. If your child is well at the end of the period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities.

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:

The adults and secondary age children in your household are encouraged to take part in twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for COVID-19 to help identify those who do not have symptoms of the virus. Primary age children do not have to take part in twice weekly testing although we do ask that if you have any concerns to please test your child regularly. LFD testing is an important control measure in helping to protect yourself and others from contracting or transmitting the virus. You can obtain free LFD test kits by ringing 119 or online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Remember; '**Hands, Face, Space and Ventilation**':

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds or 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.
- Try to stay at least 2 metres from anyone you don't live with wherever possible.
- Use a face covering when social distancing is not possible.

Further information

Further information is available at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Yours sincerely,

A D Thorpe

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Head teacher