

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA



Learning with Love, Strength and Faith, following the example of Jesus

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Monday 14th September 2020

Dear St Mary the Virgin Families,

What to expect from St Mary the Virgin CEP if there is a suspected or confirmed case at school

We are writing to provide you with details of how St Mary the Virgin CEP will respond to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school. The below guidance is taken from [Guidance for full reopening of schools](#) - everything in italics is taken directly from this guidance. We would also like to refer you to [our letter on 4th June](#) (Version 2) around the advice on sending children into school who are unwell with other symptoms:

'We also ask that parents only bring pupils into school if they are in full health. If there is any risk of them not being in full health, children should stay home for that day and parents should monitor to see if any further symptoms develop. This is in line with the government guidance which states 'If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.' We realise this may mean that children's attendance may be lower than it normally would be, but it is important that we err on the side of caution during this uncertain time.

We appreciate that sending your children back to school this year may have caused worry and anxiety for you and we would like to reassure you that we regularly update our [risk assessment](#) and are in constant and close liaison with the Department of Education for advice to ensure we are following the guidance to protect our school community. We would also like to thank you for your trust and patience whilst we continue to adapt to the guidance and ensure that we are able to continue providing your children with the education they deserve.

Government Guidance:

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough, or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Suspected cases

If a child is reported to have COVID-19 symptoms, a test should be booked as soon as possible and they, along with their household (including siblings) should self-isolate pending test results. If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating.

If there is a suspected case at school, a letter will be sent to the child's 'bubble' to inform them of the suspected case. There is no need for any action and children in that 'bubble' can continue to come to school, as usual. The sharing of suspected cases information is purely for you to be aware of.



Confirmed cases

If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and **must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days** from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have any symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. **Other members of their household (including siblings) should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.**

If there is a confirmed case in the school, a letter will be sent to their 'bubble' to inform parents that children in that 'bubble' must **self-isolate for 14 days**. We will also call you to inform you of this. The rest of the school will remain open and any **siblings** of children who are sent home (from the 'bubble') **should continue to come into school**, unless the child at home develops symptoms in which case the guidance below should be followed.

Household members of those children who are sent home **do not need to self-isolate themselves** unless the child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves, within their 14-day isolation period, they should follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They should get a test, and:

- **if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period.** This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- **if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms or the day the test was taken if no symptoms present (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period).** Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Brundle
Chair of Governors



Mr J Procter
Executive Headteacher



Miss B Hare
Head of School