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28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

## **Covid-19 Guidance Update**

Following the recent Government announcements regarding 'Living with Covid-19', we would like to confirm the following information (from the DfE's 'Schools Covid-19 operational guidance' document), much of which remains unchanged from previous guidance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1057106/220224\\_Schools\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057106/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf)

### **When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test**

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow guidance on 'People with COVID-19 and their contacts' if they have COVID-19 symptoms:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

From this document, the key information is as follows:

### **The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:**

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

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, or they are worsening, contact 111 or speak to your GP. In an emergency dial 999.



Most children and young people with COVID-19 experience a mild illness or do not have any symptoms at all. Children who have symptoms of COVID-19 are more likely to pass the virus onto others than those who do not.

### **If you have COVID-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people**

If you have COVID-19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. **If you have COVID-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.**

### **How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days**

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

Pupils and staff should return to school as soon as they can, in line with guidance for people with COVID-19 and their contacts

### **Asymptomatic testing**

From 21 February, staff and pupils in mainstream secondary schools will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population.

In the event of an outbreak, a school may also be advised by their local health team or director of public health to undertake testing for staff and students of secondary age and above for a period of time.

### **Reporting Covid-19 related absence**

In line with the published guidance, we would ask that you continue to report your **child's Covid-19 related absence** by email to **office@arden.solihull.sch.uk** and please follow the guidance as above relating to when pupils can return to school after testing positive for Covid-19.

Kind regards



**Mr Warwood**  
Associate Headteacher

