

Huish Episcopi Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to notify you that we have had several confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the last few days. Following current guidance, we continue to ensure confirmed cases of COVID-19 complete self-isolation at home.

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. Regardless of severity, for many parents and carers this remains a concerning time. This letter is to advise you of how to best support your child and the school community. We are working with Public Health Specialists at both the County Council and PHE to monitor this situation and provide you with updates.

To prevent avoidable spread, we ask that all families (and staff families) undertake twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD: the one you can do at home) testing for everyone over 11 years of age. Positive test results should be reported to us and followed-up with a PCR test (the one you have to book and travel to). LFD tests are not suitable for children under the age of 11.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 Somerset County Council's Public Health Team (SCCPH) have advised that we add to our already established control measures:

- As per this letter, provide 'warn and inform' information to identified group (e.g. class, year group or common activities group). As our cases are not linked to one particular group, we are sending this to all parents
- Provide outbreak information to everyone within the setting
- Encourage twice weekly LFD testing for the correct age group
- Reinforcement of all hygiene measures
- Encourage vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff

Additionally, **until half term**, we will:

- Not accept any visitors into school. Please phone with any queries. The School Office entrance should not be used
- Cancel all participation in fixtures
- Close Early Birds and Busy Bees from tomorrow
- Cancel all after school clubs
- Cancel all assemblies

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

However mild the symptoms, please book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken an LFD test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

If the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol).

If the test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test). Members of your household who have been fully vaccinated (at least 14 days earlier) are medically exempt from vaccination or under the age of 18 years 6 months, instead of self-isolating, are now advised to take a free PCR test. They should continue to take precautions to protect others until the result is received. If the result is negative, they can resume normal activities. If the result is positive they must isolate for 10 days. This starts either from the test date, or onset of symptoms, whichever came first.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Further information is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

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

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – for at least 20 seconds
- 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
- Bin used tissues immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Ventilate indoor spaces as well as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results

For further information, please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

There is no disruption to your child's education, the school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal.

I will be assessing the situation carefully over the next few hours, days, and weeks to ensure we have ongoing measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 whilst maintaining as near to regular school routines for our children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Tiffany Doughty Davis
Headteacher