

23rd November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Advice to All Parents – Single Case

We have been made aware of a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

As you know, each year group is taught in bubbles at Compass School and in separate zones of the school.

As a precaution, [we have contacted the families of all pupils in Year 8 and asked them to remain at home while we identify the close contacts, including teachers, that might now need to self-isolate.](#)

[At present, no other year groups are affected by this case and this letter is for information only for all but Year 8.](#) The school remains open for Years 7, 9, 10 and 11 and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

What next

- The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) will receive a separate letter today informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days. Public Health have given guidance on what constitutes “close contact” and we are working with this guidance.
- Once we have identified those that need to self-isolate, we will decide whether we have sufficient staff on site to continue with face-to-face teaching for Year 8. I expect to have an update for you with regard to this later today.
- If your child receives a letter requiring them to self-isolate because they are a close contact, other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14-day self-isolation period.
- All pupils in Year 8 will be set work on Teams for today and I ask that you ensure they complete this.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. I am advised by the Local Health Team that there is plenty of testing capacity in Southwark and results are being returned as quickly as 24hrs. If in doubt, get tested.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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

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.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

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

If you are able, 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.

Symptoms

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

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

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. 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.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk if you and anyone you live with get ill with COVID-19:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this 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
- 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/>

I appreciate that a great deal of guidance can be confusing, but please be reassured that we are working with public health professionals to ensure we take the right actions to protect our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Marcus Huntley
Principal