

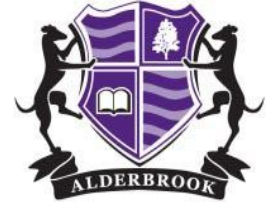
# Alderbrook School

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Company registered England & Wales no. 07687619

Dear Parents and Carers

22 October 2020

## Advice to All Parents and Year 11 to work from home on Friday

I regret to inform you that we were informed today, 22 October 2020, of four positive cases of COVID-19 within the school community. Please read the information below carefully.

As we have now had a number of confirmed cases in quick succession, I want to give you some more detail. While we cannot rule out that transmission has occurred in school, we have been able to track the transmission for the majority of cases to sources outside the school community. The local community has seen a recent increase in cases, and this is also mirrored at other local secondary schools. We cannot get complacent, and therefore must continue to carefully trace every case for close contacts in school. I appreciate that this has become extremely difficult for some families, especially for those where students have already been asked to isolate more than once. If the school can support in any way, including with providing technology for students who are isolating, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I also need to reemphasise the importance of following all government regulations. Unfortunately we are aware of at least one case where a family member was symptomatic yet the student still came to school, subsequently testing positive, meaning that we have had to ask students to isolate as a close contact; this would not have been necessary had the guidance been followed. It is incredibly unfair on the students and families who have therefore had to cancel plans, especially over the half term break, because of this.

Every day this week we have been liaising with Public Health England and the local Health Protection Team, and they are confident that we are taking all the correct measures to help protect our community. To determine whether the individuals have been in contact with others who might be at risk, they are using the following time frames:

- If symptomatic: 2 days before onset of symptoms until 10 days after onset of symptoms
- If asymptomatic: 2 days before date of test until 10 days after date of test

### Further details of confirmed cases

A Year 8 student received a test due to displaying symptoms. As symptoms started on Monday 19 October and the student has not been into school since Friday 16 October, we have not identified any close contacts in the school community.

A student in Year 9 received a test due to displaying symptoms. As symptoms started at the end of Monday 19 October, we have looked at this day to track school contacts. **We are contacting separately anyone we know who has been in close contact with the Year 9 student. If you are not contacted today, then your child can be in school tomorrow morning and will have lessons as normal.**

A student in Year 10 received a test due to displaying symptoms. As symptoms started on Tuesday 20 October, we have looked at this day and the day before. **We are contacting separately anyone we know who has been in close contact with the Year 10 student. If you are not contacted today, then your child can be in school tomorrow morning and will have lessons as normal.**

A student in Year 11 received a test due to displaying symptoms. Following advice from Public Health England, we have looked at a 4 day period due to track contacts. **We are contacting separately anyone we know who has been in close contact with the Year 11 student. All Year 11 students will be required to work from home on Friday; please read the information below.**

### **Year 11 to work from home on Friday 23 October**

Public Health England have advised that, as we have now had three confirmed cases in Year 11, it is best for Year 11 students to work from home on Friday 23 October. Please be assured that this is purely precautionary. We are very sorry that students will not be able to attend school, but we must follow Public Health guidance. As was the case on Monday, we will endeavour to deliver most lessons live remotely. Students should follow their normal timetable.

Unless you are contacted separately today as a close contact to the confirmed case in Year 11, or your child is a close contact for a previous case, there is no need for Year 11 to isolate and Year 11 will return to school on Tuesday 3 November.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

It is imperative that you respond swiftly if any household members present symptoms of COVID-19.

#### **The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:**

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>.

If you, or anyone in your family, has these symptoms now or in the future, stay at home for at least **10 days** from the date of when the symptoms appear, even if you are mildly unwell. All other members of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. 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.

The latest advice is that siblings need to be kept at home with symptomatic individuals. This means that if you are keeping one child off school because of symptoms, you must also keep any other children away from school until the symptomatic child has received a negative test. This applies to siblings within the same school or those at different schools.

### **Precautions**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk to you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

- 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 is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. We will continue to follow government guidance and that of Public Health England and ensure that you are informed at each step of the way.

We realise that you may have questions about this situation and would ask you in the first instance, to direct these to [201office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:201office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk) . Whilst we are unable to discuss any specific details with you we will of course try and respond to any general questions you may have promptly.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing the students a swift recovery. Tomorrow I will write to parents and carers to explain what will happen if we are notified of any positive cases in the school community during the half term break.

Please remember that tomorrow is a non-school uniform day. We are asking students to bring in a £1 donation for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Please remind students to bring their mask into school, especially if they have stored it in a pocket of their school uniform! Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes



**Tom Beveridge**  
**Headteacher**