

Alderbrook School

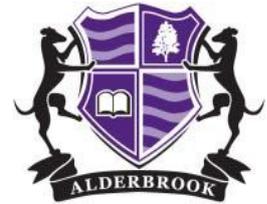
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28 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I regret to inform you that there has been further confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. We have seen a sharp increase in cases within the school since the end of last week, and have been monitoring the situation with the local Public Health team. While this is a concerning time for all, we are taking swift action to isolate identified contacts and we know that this is having an impact in reducing the risk for the rest of the school community. Below are details of any cases where wider contact tracing within the school has been necessary, and an update on the Year 10 Geography Field Trip that was due to go to Birmingham today and tomorrow.

Cases

Case 1

A Year 7 student today received a positive test result via a PCR test. The student became symptomatic on Saturday 26 June. The student was last in school on Friday 25 June and we have been advised to ask anyone who was a close contact on that day to isolate. **We are contacting separately anyone we know who was a close contact with the Year 7 student. If you are not contacted today, then your child can come into school tomorrow and will have lessons as normal.**

Case 2

A Year 10 student today received a positive test result via a LFD test. The student became symptomatic on Saturday 26 June. The student was last in school on Friday 25 June and we have been advised to ask anyone who was a close contact on that day or the day before to isolate. **We are contacting separately anyone we know who was a close contact with the Year 10 student. If you are not contacted today, then your child can come into school tomorrow and will have lessons as normal.**

We fully understand that having to isolate will be of great concern to students and parents, and we will work with these students to support them.

Cancellation of Year 10 Geography Field Trip

We have reached the difficult decision to cancel the Year 10 Geography Field Trip today and tomorrow. We are working to identify close contacts of the confirmed case in the year group, and Public Health have advised us to cancel the trips. The increased likelihood of transmission from the Delta variant would mean that transporting a large number of students by bus from the same year group could increase risk considerably. We are very disappointed not to be able to run the trip; if we are unable to rearrange for a later date, full refunds will be given.

Reminders

It is important that we remember that we still need to be cautious and maintain our control measures. Your support with the following is essential:

- We are relying on parents / carers keeping children at home if they are displaying any symptoms at all.
- If students are tested, then it is important that they do not come back into school unless they have received a negative test.
- Students should be taking an LFD test twice each week (Sundays and Wednesdays) and results reported to the NHS and via School Screener.
- If any member of the community (staff or student) has tested positive, then that individual should not return to school until they have completed a 10-day isolation period. After this period, they can return to school as long as they are not showing symptoms. There is no need for a further test to be taken (unless advised by a medical professional).
- If you are notifying us of a confirmed case, please contact us immediately using the dedicated email address:
covidpositive@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

In a letter on 20 June, we recommended that we return to wearing face coverings in indoor areas whilst transmission rates in the local community remain high. This precaution has now been extended to all secondary schools across Solihull. There has been a positive response to this request and we would be grateful if you could reiterate this recommendation with your child / children.

Symptoms

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

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

Whilst Solihull and National advice remains clear that these symptoms are the ones that would trigger isolation and booking a PCR test, you may also want to be mindful that headaches, runny noses and sore throats may also be symptoms of concern.

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/> or by phoning 111.

Further Information

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 office@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.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Beveridge', written over a faint horizontal line.

Tom Beveridge
Headteacher