



Star

6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families remain well during these difficult times.

Thank you for the support that you continue to provide to your children and to their schools. Working in partnership with you has always been important, never more so than now.

As you know, COVID-19 remains prevalent and staff across Star schools are working hard to ensure that your child remains safe and continues their learning. I appreciate that you may be worried about the possibility of your child catching the virus or transmitting it to family members, and wish to reassure you that the wellbeing and safety of your child remains our main priority.

You will be aware that the Government's new [national restrictions](#) came into place on Thursday (5th November). In his statement about the restrictions, the Prime Minister announced that schools will remain open to prioritise children and young people's education and wellbeing.

All Star schools remain safe and open. Your child should continue to attend school as normal. The only exceptions to this are if your child is unwell or if they have received a letter from a medical professional confirming that they are clinically extremely vulnerable and should not attend school whilst the national restrictions are in place (in which case you should inform the school and provide a copy of the letter).

We have robust measures in place to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 spreading in our schools. We have planned pupil groups carefully, so if we have a positive case we are able to work out quickly who may have been exposed to the virus and to take action to reduce the risk of transmission.

If your child has to self-isolate, the school will let you know and your child will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days. You will receive a letter indicating when your child should return to school. If you do not receive a letter of this nature, your child should continue to attend school as usual. Our aim is for all pupils who are able to attend school to continue doing so.

Children who are required to self-isolate, and remain well, will continue their learning at home.

Under data protection laws, schools are not able to provide details of any children or adults who have tested positive for the virus.

For this system to work most effectively, it is vitally important that you **inform the school immediately** if your child, or anyone in your household, develops any COVID-19 symptoms, if they are awaiting a test or test result, or if someone in your household tests positive. This enables our schools to act swiftly to identify all close contacts and limit transmission in the school community.

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).

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 is eligible for a test. Tests can be booked via www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or by phoning 119.

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

If someone in your household develops symptoms, 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'. The 14-day self-isolation period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. In these circumstances, household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. Further information is available [here](#).

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are a number of things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with catching COVID-19. Everyone should follow the Government's 'Hands. Face. Space.' guidance:

- Hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
- Face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- Space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).

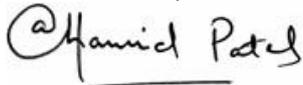
Further information on COVID-19 is available on the [NHS website \(COVID-19\)](#).

We have prepared a guide showing the action that should be taken by individuals in different circumstances with regard to COVID-19. This guide, which you can read on the next two pages, aims to help you and your family to take the necessary steps to keep safe.

While schools are doing their utmost to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they have no control over how children and young people socialise in the wider community. We are relying on you to follow the new national restrictions and to ensure that your children do likewise. It is clear that coronavirus is transmitted in the community and the way to stop this is to avoid being in close proximity with people from other households. I know that this is extremely difficult and affects the way in which we all live our lives; however, I urge you to follow the rules in order that we all play our part to keep our families safe and keep our children learning.

Thank you as always for your support.

Yours sincerely,



(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chief Executive

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) ABSENCE: A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS / CARERS



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	WHAT TO DO IF...	ACTION NEEDED	BACK TO SCHOOL...
	...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when child's test comes back negative and symptom free for 48 hours
	...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school immediately about test results • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	<p>...when child has completed 10 days isolation, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours</p> <p>They can return to school even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p>
	...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Household member with symptoms should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*
	...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days

* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

	WHAT TO DO IF...	ACTION NEEDED	BACK TO SCHOOL...
	...educational setting or NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by educational setting or NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days
	...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days
	...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team • Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again
	...I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only people with symptoms* need to get a test • People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive 	...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met

For further information:
[gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)



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