

12th June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid Update

I am writing to let you know that unfortunately, at the time of writing, we have experienced two positive Covid Cases in the Children's Home over the weekend; one case is a student and the other is a staff member. Having mapped out both individual's movements I am satisfied that there is a sound case that both the student and staff member contracted Covid off site, and crucially independently of each other.

Both individuals are in good health but are experiencing the full symptoms of Covid, our young person is recovering on site while the staff member is recovering at home; both are following Covid guidance (copied below for ease).

Due to having a rise in Covid cases, we are adopting Covid Safe practice in the Children's Home and School and are following UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) directives. This involves:

- ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated to let fresh air in
- the reinforcement of good hygiene practices such as frequent cleaning
- putting into place communications to raise awareness among parents and carers of incidents and to reinforce key messages, including the use of clear hand and respiratory hygiene measures within the setting.
- Increased cleaning across the site

Colleagues (and students) working in the Children's Homes will be advised to make use of the PPE on offer in the home and adopt the advice above. Staff (and students) in the school setting will also be offered PPE should they elect to use it.

I must advise that although we are experiencing a rise in Covid cases at the current time, the numbers are still very low, and are defined as "low risk" by the UKHSA. Should this increase, I of course will let you know at the earliest opportunity.

The current advice and guidance for children and adults:

Isolation advice Issued for Students (Under 18s) who present with Covid or Covid Symptoms

- **Students who are unwell** (have symptoms) **and have a high temperature** should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Students **with a positive COVID-19 test result** should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people **for 3 days after the day the individual took the test**, which is when they are most infectious.
- Students who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend school as normal (similar to before).

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Isolation advice Issued for Adults (Over 18s) who have Covid or Covid Symptoms

- Adults with the **symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell**, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other **people for 5 days after the day the individual took the test**, which is when they are most infectious.

If there are any questions regarding Covid, please get in touch with me directly.

Warm Weather Forecast for this Week

As many of you will have seen, we are due to have particularly high temperatures this week on Wednesday and Thursday with the highest temperature of the week, 29c, forecast for Friday.

We will be following recent guidance issued by the Government re our response to the rising temperatures, [Looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves: for teachers and professionals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(May 2022\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/looking-after-children-and-those-in-early-years-settings-during-heatwaves-for-teachers-and-professionals).

Please can I ask you to plan ahead with our young people so that the following are in place during Wednesday to Friday;

- Students should wear light coloured clothes which are loose fitting and are strongly encouraged to bring a hat/cap with them. Shorts and summer skirts are acceptable and encouraged. *N.B – While it's imperative that students are comfortable, the school is a working environment hence strappy tops, beachwear, flip flops, bare midriffs, low cut tops and low cut trousers/short shorts/short length mini skirts, etc are not acceptable.*
- Those who are travelling by Taxi should have water for the journey.
- Students are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle, sun cream, and should take medication to combat hayfever at home in the morning (if allergic to pollen) before coming to school as the pollen forecast is very high on those days.

The School will:

- Ensure that water is accessible for students; we will strongly encourage students to drink fluids throughout the day, and apply sun cream, and will facilitate staff having water in classrooms for students.
- Create a cool environment in classrooms by utilising blinds and curtains to keep optimum conditions alongside minimising computers, etc on standby.
- Ensure that students are monitored as to how long they spend in the sun each day and check for heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat stress as we are aware that many of our students (and staff) are not used to working in adverse temperatures.

If you have any questions about the weather next week please get in touch with our Office Staff as your first point of call.

In all cases of staff and students who present with illness on arrival at school, or develop an illness during the school day, leaders will work on a case by case basis to determine whether to send a student/staff member home or allow that individual to remain on the premises. A consensus decision is made in line with the health and wellbeing of the individual, peers and staff on site, and adherence with UK Health Security Agency directives (if required).

Yours sincerely



Jenny Nimmo
Principal



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