

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

Following on from my letter on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September regarding a confirmed Covid case, I wanted to provide you with more details around how the decisions are made to either stay open or close to specific children/year groups.

### **What happens when there is a positive case for a child at NUSA?**

If a child is confirmed as positive following a Covid-19 test, the standard procedure would be for a parent/carer to notify us. However, in the event that they do not, we would expect Public Health England to notify us of a positive test result.

Following confirmation, I will call the DfE helpline and will then go through a telephone risk assessment to assess whether any person has been in 'standard contact' with the confirmed case.

*Public Health England determine standard contact as:*

- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
  - being coughed on
  - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
  - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes

To find out whether a person has been in 'standard contact' with a confirmed case, we would have to do the following:

- Distinguish which classes the student had been in during the 'infectious' period (48 hours prior to the test being taken)
- Identify contacts as children who sat within 2 metres of the case during their infectious period in school from class seating plans
- Speak to the student to identify friendship groups that they have mixed with. Identify contacts as children who are known to have had definite face to face contact with them during their infectious period
- Distinguish which staff have been in contact with the student. Use the standard contact definitions for this and only ask staff to self-isolate if they have had definite contact with the case

The rules for Secondary school and Further Education settings are different to those in a primary school. The Department for Education states that **'The default should NOT be to self-isolate the whole class or bubble in a secondary setting or course / department in FE'**

Where students or staff members are identified as having been in 'standard contact' with the confirmed case, they will then be sent an additional letter to inform them that they must isolate for 14 days. We would always follow this letter with a phone call first so that parents are fully aware of what has happened and what they need to do next.

Where students or staff members have not been in 'standard contact' with the confirmed case, they would be expected to attend school as normal.

### **Why did we all receive a letter to tell us there had been a case?**

Each time there is a positive Covid case in school, the Department for Education requires us to inform the school community. You will receive this letter regardless of whether your child has been directly impacted or not. As above, if your child has been directly impacted, you will also receive an additional letter to inform you of the need for your child to isolate.

### **What happens when there is a positive case for a staff member at NUSA?**

The process is similar to the above for children. However, teachers have been asked to wear masks in communal areas at all times and have been asked to maintain a distance of at least 2 metres in situations where contact is expected to be longer than 15 minutes, for example, one-to-one meetings. If a staff member receives a positive test results, we would follow the same steps to determine their 'standard contact' and would then insist that those students/staff members isolate for 14 days as per guidance from Public Health England.

To find out whether a person has been in 'standard contact' with a confirmed case, we would have to do the following:

- Distinguish which classes the staff member had been in during the 'infectious' period (48 hours prior to the test being taken)
- Identify contacts as children who sat within 2 metres of the case during their infectious period in school from class seating plans
- Distinguish which staff have been in contact with the staff member. Use the standard contact definitions for this and only ask staff to self-isolate if they have had definite contact with the case

### **What should I do if I believe my child has 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 first 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.

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.

### **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)

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.

### **Who do I speak to if I want more advice/reassurance on any case in school?**

As per the letter sent on Friday, please contact me directly on [ehoward@nusa.org.uk](mailto:ehoward@nusa.org.uk) if you have any further questions which impact your child directly and I will either call or email you back dependent on your preference. Thank you to all parents/carers who followed this. The school phone lines are only open from 8-4pm each day but you are able to leave a message outside of these times.

As I am sure you are all aware, the advice changes very frequently and as a result, I will write to you each time there is an amendment to the advice from the Department for Education.

Yours sincerely

E.Howard

Head of School