

25 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Notification of positive COVID-19 test result

I am writing to inform you that this morning I received notification that a member of staff has tested positive for COVID-19. On receiving the notification, we immediately contacted The Department for Education and the Local Authority to discuss the situation and to clarify the action we need to take.

We have started contact tracing and due to the number of students and staff isolating until the end of next week, **I have made the decision to close Hamilton School for safety and operational reasons until Monday 7 December 2020.** The school continues to operate remotely in the meantime; it is just the site which is closed. Lessons will take place online from Friday 27 November via Google Meets and your child's teachers are already uploading work daily onto the Google Classroom platform for your child. You should have received a call today from a member of staff today to check your child's access to Google Classroom/Google Meets. Please email hamadmin@maidenerleghtrust.org if your son has any difficulties accessing school work. The school's pastoral support team will be in touch during the week to check on your child's wellbeing and answer any concerns that you may have.

I will be contacting The Department for Education, Public Health England and Public Health at the Local Authority today to discuss the situation and to confirm the action we have taken.

Please continue to note the following:

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 will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/askfor-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-19stay-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.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

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)

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

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the NHS by phoning 111 or at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

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

Do

- 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

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Straw
Headteacher