



RC/JAE

19 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

**Year 10 – Portchester Community School
New guidance from the Department for Education – Suspected COVID-19 Case**

We have been made aware that we have a second positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19) here at Portchester Community School in Year 10. A third case is being investigated.

Guidance issued on 14 July 2021 states that close contacts must self-isolate until the PCR results are confirmed. The year group bubble must now self-isolate until Monday 26 July 2021.

In line with the national guidance, your child must stay at home and self-isolate until Monday 26 July 2021.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities, provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10 day self-isolation period.

For more information, please see the guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Getting a PCR test for a close contact of a case?

It is now possible for close contacts to have a PCR test even where they do not have symptoms through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109ccea8eae> or by calling 119. In some areas you may be encouraged to do this by your local authority or local health protection team.

Please note: If your child has a negative PCR test result this does not alter the self-isolation period as a contact. Close contacts should continue to self-isolate for 10 full days, as they could still become infectious and pass the infection onto others.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19)

Having been identified as a close contact, if your child then develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test - this is the type of test that is normally available and 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 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School | White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4399 | **F:** 023 9220 1528 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | **www:** www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

Successful Learners ■ Confident Individuals ■ Responsible Citizens



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 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

For more information, please read PHE's 'Stay at Home' guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. 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.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

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

- 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

R Carlyle

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher