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Head of School Mrs S Sullivan

Friday 18 September 2020

Covid-19 Update

Dear Parent/Carers,

As some of you may be aware, some Primary Schools around the country have had to close some of their 'bubbles' due to children/staff testing positive for COVID-19. As you can imagine this is challenging for the Leadership Teams and the schools, however I have every confidence they will overcome the logistical difficulties we are all potentially faced with.

As we are all aware there are still many challenges we face as a nation and in terms of schools it is only a matter of time before difficult decisions are made to close classes.

To clarify our position, if a positive case is found in school (staff or child) we will contact the Department for Education (a new dedicated support line) and through consultation, decisions will be made as to what classes are to close and who will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. You will be notified via text or e-mail when appropriate.

If your child were to be sent home, nobody else in your household needs to self-isolate unless someone in the household starts to show symptoms and requires a test. Government guidance advises that siblings in other groups / bubbles or other schools **do not** have to self-isolate.

If a class is sent home then we will provide home-learning. This will be similar in format to the Home Learning during lockdown and will be purely for that class. The class teacher will organise this, with work accessed via the internet.

We continue to observe and follow Government guidance and risk assessments: We maintain social distancing where practically possible in terms of class groups (bubbles); where staff are deployed and employ strict hygiene regimes.

Finally, if you or anyone in your household shows symptoms of the virus you need to book a test. Be sure of the symptoms and how and where to get a test. Households need to self-isolate if a member of the household is taking a test or is awaiting test results. Schools also need to see the results of the test.

If you need any advice please following the links below...

www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/

www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/leaflet-information-parents-and-carers

Hopefully we won't have to close the school in any form, it is the last the thing we want. However, it is a becoming a genuine possibility and it is about all of us being aware, informed and calm about this eventuality.

Thank you for your continued support during these very challenging times.
 Yours sincerely,

Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
 Fever	Common	Common	Rare
 Cough	Common	Common	Mild
 Loss of taste and smell	Sudden	Rare	Sometimes
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny/stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Sneezing	No	No	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
 Diarrhoea	Sometimes for children	Sometimes, especially for children	No

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/](https://nidirect.gov.uk/) CORONAVIRUS TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

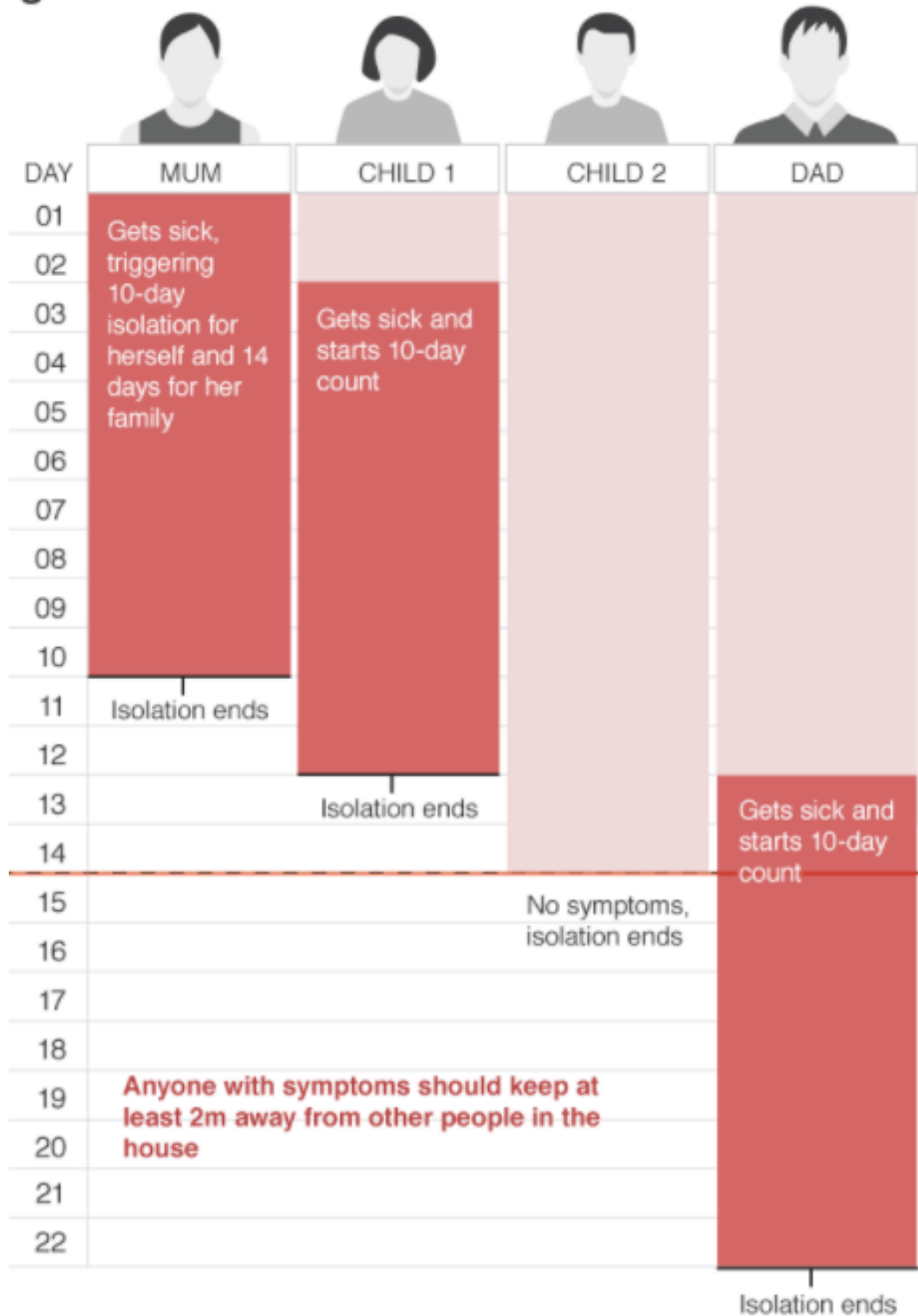
WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk

What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



People may be able to pass on coronavirus without showing any symptoms

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our school safe and stopping the spread of CV-19
Normally - Before Covid - Would you have kept your child off school?

For 'Child' please also read 'Staff Member'

YES

Keep your child off school
Inform the the school office asap

NO

Does your child have:
A) A fever (high temp over 38°C using a thermometer)
B) A new, continuous cough?
C) A complete loss or change to sense of smell or taste
Possible: unusual rash or upset tummy

YES

Keep your child off school
Inform the the school office asap
Speak to 119 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus website and arrange for a self-test to be done
Your child and your household **must** isolate until you have the result of the test

NO

Does you child have an underlying chronic medical condition?
- such as Cystic Fibrosis?

Result of test!

+ve

Positive
The child isolates for 10 days
The rest of the household need to isolate for 14 days

-ve

Negative
the child returns to school once well
The rest of the household stop isolating and carry on as normal

YES

Speak to their specialist team about the testing criteria if you haven't already spoken to them or had a letter from them

NO

Children who are otherwise well with:
- Runny noses
- Sore throats without a fever
- Mild colds
Can go to school as **NORMAL**

If you have a



new and
continuous cough

or



high
temperature

stay at home for 7 days, if you live alone
stay at home for 14 days, if you live with
others, including all household members

Only use **NHS 111** if your symptoms get
worse or are no better after home isolation

Stop the spread of coronavirus



**Wash your hands
more often
and for 20 seconds**



Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- Get home or into work
- Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- Eat or handle food

Cover your mouth and nose with a
tissue or your sleeve (not your hands)
when you cough or sneeze and throw
the tissue away straight away



**Supervise young
children** to ensure they
wash their hands more
often than usual



**Posters and lesson
plans on general hand
hygiene** can be found
on the eBug website



Clean and disinfect
regularly touched
objects and surfaces
more often than usual
using your **standard
cleaning products**



**Staff, young people and
children should stay at
home if they are unwell** with
a new, continuous cough or a
high temperature to avoid
spreading infection to others

If staff, young people or children become
unwell on site with a new, continuous
cough or a high temperature **they
should be sent home**

We are asking schools, colleges, nurseries,
childminders and other registered childcare
settings **to remain open for children of
critical workers and vulnerable children**
where they can