

Date: 26.06.21

FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF CLOSE CONTACTS OF COVID-19 at St Andrew's Methodist Primary School

Dear Parent or Carer,

### **A confirmed case of COVID-19 in our School - Year 2.**

I'm sorry to inform you that a member of our school community has tested positive for Covid-19. The school is working closely with Salford's Public Health Team to reduce the risk of infection for all children and staff.

**We have identified that your child has been in close contact with the affected person.** In line with the national guidance your child **must** stay at home and self-isolates until 04.07.21 (10 days after contact).

Isolation means the person cannot go outside of the house (unless in your garden), other family members (outside your household) cannot visit and your child cannot see friends. If your child is well at the end of the 10 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities and attend school as normal (from Monday 5th July).

Due to the current increase in the number of cases in Salford, Public Health are asking all staff and pupils who are identified as a contact of a positive case to have a PCR test during their 10 day isolation period, where appropriate. Household members of those isolating can also book a PCR test through this route.

We are asking contacts to get tested so we can identify any additional cases, including when people have no symptoms. This will help us to identify and isolate cases, prevent onward transmission and minimise our case rates in the city.

Please go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) to book this test. You will be asked to identify whether your child has COVID symptoms. If your child has no symptoms, you should select 'No' for this answer and proceed through the questions until they get to the question: **Why are you asking for a test?**

You should select the box that says - **I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional**

And then the option that states: **My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms**

You can then proceed to book the test.

**Please note**, for some children and young people, testing will not be appropriate. This includes early years pupils or pupils who have additional needs that would make the completion of the test distressing and/or challenging. In addition, it's not appropriate to get a PCR test if a person has tested positive within the last 90 days unless they become unwell with symptoms, if so please arrange a PCR test via [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119

**However, please remember that even if your child's test result is negative, they must still isolate for the full 10 days.**

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10 day self-isolation period. This is because they are NOT contacts of the positive case. They are **contacts of contacts** of the case. Contacts of contacts do not need to self-isolate unless someone in their household develops symptoms or they come into contact with another case.

Even though your child is identified as a contact, please try not to worry. For most people COVID-19 is a mild illness. Please see the link to the PHE Staying 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>

Further Public Health information is included in the [information sheet](#) below.

Although COVID-19 is circulating in the community, usual childhood illnesses are too; and it is important that these are not missed. Please contact your GP or NHS111 if you are worried; or call 999 if seriously unwell.

You are now able to book a COVID-19 test for your child/ren who attend our school if they feel unwell with 'non-classical' COVID-19 symptoms. While we know a lot of people are more likely to catch winter viruses at this time of year, in Salford we still want to rule out the possibility of COVID-19 and encourage primary and secondary age pupils to get tested.

Non-classical symptoms include:

- Vomiting/nausea/off your food
- Diarrhoea
- Sleeping more than usual/extreme tiredness
- Listless/restless/agitated
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling cold
- Headache
- Severe body aches
- Sore throat
- Congested or runny nose
- Skin rash
- Complaining of anything that is not feeling themselves

To book a test please visit [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) and, when prompted, click the box “My local council has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms”

If you have any questions or concerns please refer to the government website, or you can contact The Spirit of Salford Helpline on 0800 952 1000

You may be eligible for financial support if you have to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating. <https://www.salford.gov.uk/benefits/test-and-trace-support-payments/my-child-is-having-to-isolate/> Further details can be found below.

**Please note: You will not be able to make an application for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme without this letter.**

Best wishes

Mrs A Barker

Head Teacher

## **INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Public Health**

If you think that someone else in your household has come in contact with a confirmed case or you need help or advice about self-isolation, please call the Spirit of Salford helpline on **0800 952 1000**.

#### **Public Health Advice on symptoms**

If anyone in your household becomes unwell with one of the symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) to book a test by ringing **119** or go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

**Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:**

A new continuous cough.

A high temperature (fever)

A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Any one of the above symptoms gives reason for high level of suspicion for COVID-19.**

Information about COVID-19 symptoms and management of the virus can be found here, [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

### **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

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

### **Financial support**

If you are on a low income and you need to take time off work to care for your child

while they are self-isolating, you may be eligible for financial support from your local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:

- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- They are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits:
  - Universal Credit
  - Working Tax Credit
  - income-based Employment and Support Allowance
  - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Income Support
  - Housing Benefit
  - Pension Credit

Their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Discretionary payments are also available for people on low incomes who are not on means-tested benefits but who may still face hardship as a result of the requirement to self-isolate. Your local authority may have additional eligibility criteria in place for discretionary payments.

If you are eligible, you will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay you receive currently.

**Your local authority will contact your child's school to verify the information you provide about your child as part of the process of confirming whether you are eligible for a payment.**

You can see the full eligibility criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme and find out how to apply at:

[Claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme)

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria listed above and would like to apply to your local authority for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, you should provide this letter to your local authority to support your application. **You will not be able to make an application for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme without this letter.**

Contact <https://www.salford.gov.uk/benefits/test-and-trace-support-payments/my-child-is-having-to-isolate/> to make a Salford Claim.