

Covid 19

Great Chart Primary School- Information sheet for staff and pupils in school- Managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

We will aim to take swift action when we become aware that someone (child or adult) who has attended school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with us in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

(Staff need to be aware of what is meant by close contacts and limit the amount of time spent with staff / children outside of their group or bubble)

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home.

A template letter will be provided, on the advice of the health protection team, to send to parents and staff if needed. We will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others, following guidance.

We would ask that parents support the school and not release details via social media or to the press to protect individuals and the whole school community

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'. They should get a test, and follow this advice:

A negative test result

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.

A positive test result

- if the test result is positive, they should inform their school immediately, and must isolate for at least **10** days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation

ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

The DfE guidance does not ask schools to request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation but we would ask parents and staff to take responsibility for the health and safety of our whole school community.

Containing any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

If we have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, we may have an outbreak, and must continue to work with our local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person’s class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice

Any decisions regarding sending home bubbles or groups will be made in consultation with the Health Protection Team. This is not a decision the school will make on it’s own.

We would ask that parents support the school and not release details via social media or to the press to protect individuals and the whole school community

Great Chart Primary School’s key to reducing the spread of the virus:

- a requirement that people who are ill with Covid 19 symptoms stay at home and immediately get a test
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.
This means limiting contacts by:
 1. grouping children together
 2. avoiding contact between groups
 3. arranging classrooms with forward facing desks as far as reasonably practicable
 4. staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible