



**BIDDULPH  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: **Mrs E C Robinson BA (Hons)**



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Chief Executive Officer: **Mark Kent**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Advice to All Parents - Increasing cases of COVID-19 in school September 21**

Firstly, I would like to commend all our students on their excellent return to school at the beginning of term. Year 9 settled quickly, and it has been lovely to have the school running with some sense of normality.

However, I am writing to inform you that we have been notified of 21 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school as at Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021. As a result, we have been asked, by the Local Outbreak Team, to introduce some precautionary measures as of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, which include:

- The **use of face masks in all communal and social areas at break and lunchtimes, when indoors**. All students are required to bring a mask to school to wear at these times unless they are exempt.
- Reverting to **assemblies on Teams** in classrooms.
- **Adapting, limiting, or postponing school events**. You will be notified of these in plenty of time. Our Y11 Progress Evening will be online, and we anticipate this being the case for all our Progress Evenings this year.
- Secondary school students and all households should **continue to test twice weekly** at home, as you have already been doing. If you receive a positive result from a lateral flow test, you should seek a PCR as soon as possible and then follow the isolation guidance as below.

**What to do if NHS Track and Trace contact you:**

1. If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, your child should continue attending school and you should arrange from them to have a PCR COVID-19 test. **Only if this test is positive or your child is displaying one of the three COVID-19 symptoms do they need to refrain from school and self-isolate.** In line with the latest government guidelines that were released in August 2021, identified close contacts who are under 18 years of age, do not need to self-isolate.
2. **If your child does test positive for Covid-19 they should stay at home for the 10-day isolation period** and the school will arrange remote education from the second day, so that they can continue their learning if they are well enough to do so. Remote education will not be extended to children who are absent for other reasons.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation with the support of the Local Authority. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We will continue to review our risk assessment and outbreak management plan and adhere to the protective measures in place at school. These measures include hygiene and cleaning measures and keeping spaces well ventilated.



## What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID19

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 day after their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should seek a test and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Household members no longer need to isolate if they are under 18 years of age or are double vaccinated.

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

The 10-day period starts from the day after the first person in the house became ill.

### 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).

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

### 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 E Robinson  
Headteacher

