



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

Dear parent/carer,

I want to make you aware that we have unfortunately had a member of staff test positive for Coronavirus along with a student in year 7. I realise when you read this, it is going to cause concern. Therefore, I want to reassure you by explaining the steps that we have taken. We have carried out a full risk assessment and identified all of those who have been in close contact with the affected case and have recommended that they stay at home and self-isolate until 14 days after their last contact, which is Tuesday 29th September.

First of all, the member of staff developed symptoms on Monday evening. Therefore, they have self-isolated from that point. They received a test on Tuesday morning and got their results on Wednesday morning. It has been established that they contracted the virus outside of school, from a family member.

We have ensured that all of the locations where the teacher has been have received a deep clean. As you will know from my previous letters, we have a teacher zone at the front of the class. The teacher remained in this zone for all of their lessons on Monday. **I have been in contact with Public Health England and they are happy that no students are affected and that no further actions are needed.** I have, however, made a decision to ask 3 other members of staff to self-isolate. The reason for this is that they share an office. I want to take no risks and ensure that this is an isolated case with no possibility of spreading.

The parents of the student's close contacts have been informed. Therefore, if you have not received a phone call, your child has not been in close contact with the individual and are therefore fine to attend school as normal. All of the locations where the student has been have received a deep clean. Public Health England's advice was to isolate the close contacts but to take no risks, we have asked the whole bubble to stay at home.

As I have previously mentioned, I want zero transmissions in school so it is important that all members of TeamTanfield help to protect each other and continue to follow the guidance to reduce transmission. The guidance is below.

TANFIELD SCHOOL

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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

What to do if you develop symptoms of COVID 19

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

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **high temperature and/or**
- **a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they must remain at home and make arrangements to be tested. If positive, all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: nhs.uk/coronavirus

I know that this is a worrying time for parents but I want to reassure you that your child's and family's safety is our number one priority and we will continue to keep you informed of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Clough
Head Teacher

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