

Tuesday 22nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday we received notification that there are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in pupils at DEC. I write here to provide an outline of the information you need to know and some reassurances of how effectively our systems have worked in rapid response to confirmed cases.

What have we done in response to the confirmed cases?

The DfE advice service worked with school to guide us through the actions we needed to take. Based on their advice, we sent home those people who have been in close contact with the two people who 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

Our seating plans have been used to trace pupils and staff who may have been in contact with the confirmed cases. Our social time 'track and trace' books have been invaluable in identifying additional contacts from break time and lunchtime. This has led to a clearly defined group of children who we have sent home to isolate for 14 days.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and The Department for Education. The school remains open and providing your child remains well (and they are not part of a self-isolating group) they can continue to attend school as normal.

Why have we sent home a group of children when some schools are sending home whole year groups?

We have sent home the pupils identified as close contacts with the confirmed cases, in line with the advice we were given by the relevant authorities. Due to our efficient and effective contact tracing system for lessons and social time, we are able to identify close contacts in a way which prevents the need for a whole group to be sent home to isolate. Using this system, we hope to avoid sending home an entire year group though we will always act in line with the advice and guidance we are given by the DfE and/or Public Health England. Our systems so far have been praised by both organisations.

How will pupils who are isolating be taught?

From lunchtime today, our comprehensive remote curriculum plan will be live on the website. Teachers have worked incredibly hard to put together a carefully sequenced set of lessons which align with the curriculum pupils who remain in school are studying. Our remote curriculum successfully:



- Uses a curriculum sequence that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos and that is linked to the school's curriculum expectations
- Gives access to high quality remote education resources
- Selects the online tools that will be consistently used across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback
- Provides printed resources for pupils who do not have suitable online access
- Recognises that younger pupils and some pupils with SEND may not be able to access remote education without adult support; we will work with families to deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum

In addition, our teachers have:

- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects – pupils will be following the normal timetable
- Planned a well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- Selected resources that provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- Set up systems to gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks
- Created ways to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding
- Set up a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school

For those isolating and working at home, the subject email addresses for guidance and feedback are:

Faculty	Contact	Email address
Mathematics, Psychology and H&S	Ms E Raine	mathssupport@decschool.co.uk
English and Drama	Mr T Hutton/ Mrs R Atton	englishsupport@decschool.co.uk
Science	Mr B Feenan	sciencesupport@decschool.co.uk
MFL	Ms V Lopez	mflsupport@decschool.co.uk
Humanities	Mrs N Delaney	humanitiessupport@decschool.co.uk
PE and Creative Arts	Mr J Smith	pecreativesupport@decschool.co.uk
Media, Computing, Business and Tech	Mr O Hanson	mediatechsupport@decschool.co.uk

My child is working at home but access to the internet/ a laptop is a challenge – can school help?

Yes. For any pupil who is unable to access work online, we will provide printed work packs similar to those during the summer. We may be able to order and provide a laptop and 4G dongle from The Government. If you need support, please contact us for paper based work and/ or to as check your child's eligibility for a laptop via enquiry@decschool.co.uk.





What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Symptoms

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

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

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

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

Mr M. Dunn
Head Teacher

