



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Tuesday 13 October 2020

Confirmed Covid-19 Case

Dear Families

We were fortunate that, whilst other schools have had cases of covid, we did not, until now. We have been advised that we have had a single test result come back positive for Covid-19. This is a member of staff, who came into contact with a positive Covid-19 case outside of school and has now tested positive themselves. They are well, but are now self-isolating.

As you know, St Martin's has rigorous systems to protect staff and students in line with DfE guidance. However, despite all the processes that have been put in place, schools are a reflection of the current covid picture nationally, so transmission in school remains a possibility.

We are working with the Public Health Protection Team and reacting swiftly to implement the guidance for this situation which also includes identifying any contacts as outlined in the government [guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(covid-19\) infection who do not live with the person](#).

We were advised by the Public Health Protection Team that no students or student groups had to self isolate, but there were 4 members of staff that were identified as contacts who will now self isolate for 14 days.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

A reminder that 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 date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

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.

Should you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a pet, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

If you are able to do so, 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. It is understood that this will not be possible for many families.

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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)

Please remember that for most people, particularly young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at: [Check if you or your child has coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#). If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> 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/>

Thank you for your ongoing support. We will continue to update with any further developments.

Yours sincerely



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher