



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

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

*Service Compassion Justice Perseverance*

8 November 2020

Dear Families,

## **Confirmed two cases of COVID-19 in Year 10 and Year 11**

I am writing to inform you of two confirmed cases of covid-19 involving Year 10 and Year 11. We were informed about this late on Friday and have been dealing with this since then to identify any close contacts so that they can be informed to self isolate and not attend school on Monday 9 November.

We are working with Public Health and are following the guidance to ensure we are responding appropriately. There is a small number of students who have come into close contact with the confirmed cases and they have been informed and will be staying at home to self isolate for 14 days. This is purely a precautionary measure that will help to keep the school and wider community safe. Unless you have been contacted, your child should continue to attend school as normal if they are well.

For your information, the close contact criteria has been outlined below. You can find full details of how schools are expected to respond to any infection in the [government guidance](#) or refer to the letter [Managing a confirmed case of covid-19](#) which was sent to families on 22 October outlining the procedure and can be found on our website.

The guidance says *'Schools must 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

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

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

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.

- 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.

**Headteacher** Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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**WITH LOVE AND LEARNING**



- If you are able, 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.

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.

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

### 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.

#### Remember - 'Hands. Face. Space'

- **hands** – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- **face** – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- **space** – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

You are also required to follow the [National Restrictions guidance](#) introduced from 5 November 2020.

### Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

A reminder that if your child or any member of your household has symptoms or is waiting for a test, **your child must stay at home. Please do not send them to school** even if they feel well, wait for the result of the test.

Yours sincerely



Beverley Stanislaus  
Headteacher