



3 December 2020

**GENERAL ADVICE TO ALL PARENTS**

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that we have been made aware of a very small number of our school community who have tested positive for COVID-19.

**In this instance, due to the date of the test result and the preceding INSET days, I can confirm that NO OTHER STUDENTS from Heathfield Community College have been identified as a close contact. The College remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.**

I recognise that this information may increase anxiety for some. I wanted to assure you that the cases are linked through family connections and we are ensuring students can continue to be supported whilst self-isolating.

We all understand the context in which we are working and I can assure you that our cases remain very small in number compared to both local and national comparisons. I can also assure you that students throughout the school have done everything that we asked of them and made our one-way systems, social zoning and sanitising systems work well. It is important we all continue to do all that we can to prevent the spread.

We will continue to keep you informed as appropriate. At this time we really appreciate the community support to work together to ensure that as far as possible, for as many as possible, we keep Heathfield open and keep students learning.

Yours sincerely

**MS C BARLOW**  
Headteacher



Distinguished School

## Further Information

### 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. 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. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. 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 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. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

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, 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:

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

### For most 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 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-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/>