



# COVID-19 FAQs FOR PARENTS/CARERS

23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

Please note that the national government and Public Health England guidance is updated very regularly. The notes below are based on our understanding of the current guidance at the time of publishing and are subject to change, often at short notice. Rest assured, the Trust keeps both local and national matters under constant review.

| QUESTION  | ANSWER  |
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| I want to know more about the school's systems to manage the risks of Covid-19 - how do I get more information?   | The school's risk assessment is reviewed regularly in line with government advice and guidance and is available on the school website.  |
| What should I do if my child displays Covid-19 symptoms in the evening or at the weekend?                         | Arrange to get them tested as soon as possible. <b>Do not send them back into school until they receive a negative test result.</b> Please inform school that you are keeping them at home and awaiting a test. All of those in your household will need to self-isolate too, including any brothers or sisters at our school. The very latest guidance can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>  |
| If my child had a positive test for Covid-19 - what should I do?  | Inform the school as soon as possible and we will work closely with you to establish all their recent 'close proximity' contacts. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• immediate close friends and</li> <li>• students who have sat within close proximity in the classroom.</li> </ul> The Trust and school will work with Public Health England who will then advise on the most appropriate course of action the school will then be required to take. We keep the information about your child confidential and only inform the staff and families who need to know. |
| If my child (or their sibling) is self-isolating whilst waiting for a test result will they get work from school? | Students will be coded on our school attendance system to recognise when they are absent due to Covid 19-related protocols and this non-attendance does not count against them or their family. Once you have informed the school office of the situation they will let teachers know that your child is not in school. Class teachers will then Dojo any work that can be completed at home if this is possible and children also have access to material on Education City which the teacher can direct them towards.   |

| QUESTION   | ANSWER  |
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| <b>What happens if there is a positive case of Covid-19 at a Wickersley Partnership Trust school?</b>  | Headteachers have very clear guidance to follow. In the event of a student testing positive for Covid-19 we have to immediately telephone the Public Health England helpline. They will then work with us to assess any risk. They will use the information provided by Headteachers to instruct our next step; this may be to contact a small number of families or to inform the whole 'year group bubble' that they must now self-isolate. In the event of a positive case, all students and parents will receive clear guidance from the school about what action is being taken. |
| <b>Why does the advice for self-isolation change from case to case?</b>  | The schools work with Public Health England helpline who advise on the specifics of each individual case in order to establish how many students must self-isolate. Each case is slightly different in terms of how many close proximity contacts the positive case may have had, and when their last contacts were.  |
| <b>If there is a confirmed case and some students are asked to isolate, do their siblings in different year groups or different schools have to isolate?</b> | No. Not unless your child starts to develop Covid-19 symptoms. Then you would get the child with symptoms tested and all members of the household would need to self-isolate as above.  |
| <b>Do I, as a parent, need to self-isolate if I get a letter from the school telling me there is a confirmed case and my child has to self-isolate?</b>      | No. Not unless you or your child develops Covid-19 symptoms (see above).  |
| <b>What work would my child be set if they were told to self-isolate?</b>  | Where students are self-isolating we will set work via the following platforms where appropriate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Classdojo - work uploaded to shared class site</li> <li>2. Education City - activities and learning opportunities to aid learning</li> <li>3. Novel Study Book - where possible, to read and keep up to date with the current novel being studied.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>What if my child is not in the same year group as a child who tests positive for Covid-19 but travels on the bus/walks home with the child ?</b>          | The student who tests positive for Covid-19 will be asked to identify anyone they have had close contact with over the past few days. These close contacts will also be contacted and told to self-isolate if it is deemed they are at risk.  |
| <b>Will we be told the names of the children who have tested positive?</b>   | You will not be told names as it would breach medical confidentiality. We understand that children and families will talk. We discourage this as it can increase concern and anxiety. We ask that everyone in our community shows care and respect for each other and that social media is not used to discuss the situations as they arise. This can cause serious upset within local communities.   |

| QUESTION  | ANSWER   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>What happens if a teacher has a positive test for Covid-19?</b></p> | <p>Staff are required to maintain social distancing from students and colleagues and avoid close face-to-face contact and minimise time spent within 1m of anyone. However, just as for a confirmed case for a student, we would contact the Public Health England and they would advise us what to do. If they felt it was necessary to instruct any other staff or students to self-isolate, we would do as they asked and contact those that were thought to be affected. We would not share the teacher's name with anyone else (again to preserve medical confidentiality).</p> |
| <p><b>Does my child have to wear a face covering at school?</b></p>       | <p>Wickersley Partnership Trust policy is that face coverings are strongly recommended to be worn in reception areas. They are not recommended to be worn in lessons.</p>  |
| <p><b>Does my child have to wear a face covering in lessons?</b></p>      | <p>The government guidance and the Trust policy is clear that the universal wearing of face coverings is not recommended. In Secondary schools (Y7 &amp; above) we advise that face coverings should not to be worn in lessons (but only in areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain). Primary children do not need to wear face coverings at all.</p>   |