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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

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Date: 8th December 2020

Closure of a Year 10 bubble.

Dear Parent or Carer,

We have been made aware that we have a suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19) at Dartford Science and Technology College within your daughter's close contact bubble.

As it is highly likely, due to the symptoms and circumstances of the suspected case, that the symptomatic child will test positive, we have decided as a precaution to send your child home. If the child currently being tested returns a negative result, we will inform you immediately and your child can return to school. We hope that this will be in the next few days. However, if as suspected, the child returns a positive result, following the national guidance and discussion with Public Health England we will confirm to you immediately via telephone call and email that all affected students must stay at home and self-isolate up to and including the 18th December 2020 (ending self-isolation on Saturday the 19th December 2020) and returning to school on the 4th January 2021. If your child is well at that point. Until such time as the result is known your daughter must stay at home and self isolate, as a precautionary measure.

Until you receive confirmation of the test result and also should the test be positive, then the following will apply.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the day self-isolation period. Including siblings of the student who is self isolating.

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>



Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- 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 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.

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 .

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority.

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'.

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 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

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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



Mrs A Davis
Principal