



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

This is an ever-changing situation and often the guidance and reports in the media are confusing. There is a lot of guidance available but Mr Davies, the headteacher from St Johns' Primary School and I thought that it might be helpful if we put the key information together in one place, so that you know exactly what the school must do in certain situations.

The information below is from the weekly update all schools receive from Essex County Council. Their information is from:

- Full Opening Guidance for Schools
- Safe Working in Education
- Implementing the Protective Measures in Education
- Public Health England
- Testing and Tracing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This document will be uploaded to the school's website and updated with any subsequent changes.

### **What will happen if symptoms develop during the school day?**

If a pupil or staff member develops symptoms of the coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate immediately, only leaving the house to access a test.

If a pupil is waiting to be collected, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated.

Ideally the door is to be closed with a supervising adult the other side of the door. However, if the child is too distressed or too young to be left an adult will sit with the child to help ease their worries. The adult will be wearing, gloves, apron, face mask and a visor whilst they are waiting with the pupil.

Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.

If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. This room will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

### **How does the school dispose of potentially contaminate waste?**

The school must dispose of waste from people with symptoms of coronavirus, such as disposable cleaning cloths, tissues and PPE:

- put it in a plastic rubbish bag and tie it;
- place the plastic bag in a second bin bag and tie it;
- put it in a suitable and secure place marked for storage for 72 hours.

Waste should be stored safely and securely. The school will not put the waste in communal waste areas until the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours. Storing for 72 hours saves unnecessary waste movements and minimises the risk to waste operatives. This waste does not require a dedicated clinical waste collection in the above circumstances.

If, in an emergency, the school must remove the waste before 72 hours, it must be treated as Category B infectious waste. The school must:

- keep it separate from your other waste
- arrange for collection by a specialist contractor as hazardous waste

The school will be charged for this service.



### **What will happen if a pupil or staff member begin to display symptoms outside of school?**

The individual must not come to school. Please seek a test and please let the school know the outcome of the test as soon as you receive it.

If the individual arrives at school after informing us they are showing symptoms and before we have heard the outcome of the test, they will be sent home immediately.

### **How do you access a test?**

Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

The options for the test are:

- at a local test site today and get the results tomorrow
- with a home test kit if they cannot get to a test site, results expected within 72 hours

Anyone with symptoms can get a coronavirus test, whatever their age.

### **What happens if a pupil or staff member tests positive? How are others identified who need to self-isolate?**

When an individual tests positive for COVID19 the NHS Test and Trace programme is engaged. For schools, this means:

- The Essex Contact Tracing Team (ECTT) will liaise with that individual to understand their recent movements.
- The team will contact the school to carry out a 'rapid risk assessment' and confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious.
- The school does have the following information readily available for the ECCT team:
  - Which pupils and staff are in which groups in school,
  - Which pupils attend before/after school clubs (when these are up and running),
  - The names of pupil's siblings so the ECTT team have the full picture.
- The school must send home those staff and pupils identified as having 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 (during the infections period as advised by ECTT)
- The ECTT will also liaise with the family (if it is a pupil) to identify any out of school/social close contacts. Schools are not expected to know which contacts their staff or pupils have had outside of school.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the pupil or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If this occurs, they must follow the process for anyone who develops COVID19 symptoms; self-isolate and seek a test.

### **Self-isolation following a positive test**

If an individual tests positive they must continue to self-isolate for **at least 10 days** from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school/ college only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill.

Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the **full 14 days**.

'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'

### **Does the school inform Public Health of positive case/s?**

Yes, if there is a confirmed case within the school in a member of staff or pupil, we must inform Public Health.



### **How is the area cleaned following a case of COVID-19?**

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including; bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells.

Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings.

Areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags.

The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) is disposable gloves and an apron.

Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

### **Who should access a test?**

The symptomatic individual should access a test as soon as possible.

The symptoms for testing are:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Contacts of this individual should only access testing if they themselves become symptomatic.

If a contact who has been asked to self-isolate, goes on to display symptoms, accesses a test but it is negative – they still cannot return to school until they have completed their 14 day isolation period (this is because they still might go on to become positive during the 14 days).

### **When can they return to school?**

Where the original individual tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the pupil/staff member tests positive – they may return to school/ college after **10 days** from the onset of their symptoms and then return only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

If someone is symptomatic, tests positive and works with a vulnerable group/individual, who has greater vulnerability than the general population, it is sensible they are excluded for **14** rather than 10 days.

### **How do they access learning when they are isolating?**

Pupils in Years 1 to 6 will have work uploaded to Google Classrooms. Children in Reception class will have work sent to them via Tapestry.

### **What is defined as 'close contact'?**

Close contacts are defined as:

- Direct close contacts - face to face contact, 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);
- Travelling in a small vehicle, like a car.

### **Will the whole school close if one person has a positive test?**



No – as we are following the guidelines rigorously and ensuring class bubbles don't mix, we do not expect to close the whole school but we will follow Public Health England or the Essex Contact Tracing Team guidance on this matter.

**Should the school close to deep clean?**

It is not necessary to close the whole site to deep clean as a result of a case of COVID19. It is advised that, if possible, children/staff are moved away from the area in which the symptomatic individual has been in order to clean.

**If a group of people are asked to isolate but individuals within that group return a negative test, can they return to school?**

Those identified by the Essex Contact Tracing Team must self-isolate for 14 days. This is because it may take a number of days for symptoms to show, in the meantime the individual could return a negative test but then go on to become positive.

**Will the school inform all parents/carers if the school has a positive case confirmed?**

Yes - we will inform you of a positive test but we will not release any details of the individual who has tested positive but it will be obvious which year group it is as they won't be in school.

**Carol Gooding  
Headteacher**

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2020**