



Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents,

You will know after many months of hearing about Covid-19 that the three main symptoms of Covid-19 are a **high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of smell or taste**. If you experience any of these symptoms you should **self-isolate and get tested**.

However, it has become apparent that this virus can present in all kinds of ways, and there is now a **wider set of symptoms** which **some** people have also been testing positive with. They include:

- Diarrhoea
- A persistent headache
- Fever and chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

Many of these symptoms could be caused by other “usual” viruses, but at this time Wirral’s Director of Public Health is urging residents, adults or children, to get a Covid-19 test if they are showing any of the wider symptoms of the virus. **You must arrange to get a test at one of Wirral’s symptoms-only testing sites**. You can book a symptoms-only test at a mobile testing centre via www.wirral.gov.uk/test

Wirral’s infection rates have fallen since we went into lockdown in early January, but they are still high, and we all need to do everything we can to further reduce the numbers and stop the spread of Covid-19 in our community. This will help to ensure people are not spreading the virus without knowing.

The test centres are getting results quickly now and if the test is negative your child can return to school as soon as they are well. Don’t forget that if your child has diarrhoea or has been vomiting, they should not return to school until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

There is no need to be overly anxious if your child does get one of the wider symptoms – it is far more likely to be a normal childhood illness than covid but we want you to check. Better safe than sorry!

As we did during the Christmas holidays, the Department for Education has asked that for the first few days of the holidays we remain contactable so we can assist with contact

tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant school contacts in school to be identified.

1. Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
2. For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Day	Develop Symptoms	Action	Further action
Saturday	Yes	Get tested	If test is positive- email school.
Sunday	Yes	Get tested	If test is positive- email school.
Monday-Thursday	Yes	Get tested	Even if positive, no need to email school because child has not been in school for 48hrs.

Please inform school by using the following email address:

covid@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

If your child needs to self-isolate we will notify you by text or by a telephone call.

Thank you to everyone for all the care you are taking to protect our school community – the infection numbers are falling and we hope that these extra precautions will help this.

The government has indicated that there will be a return to school on March 8th. As soon as we know what this will look like I will write to you with plans for the wider opening of our school. It has been a difficult half-term and we are keen to have our children back in their classes learning and socialising with their friends as soon as it is safe.

Thank you for your on-going support of the school and the staff. We all feel proud and grateful to be part of such a wonderful school community.

Julie Morris
Headteacher