

25th November 2020
15:00

Dear Families,

Re: COVID-19 Update, Procedures at Burton Borough School and Keeping Newport Safe

I hope that you are well and all year 10 students who are isolating at the moment are well and working hard remotely via MS Teams. We recently sent out a survey on students' experience on MS Teams and remote learning at Burton Borough School that has proved to be very useful for us. At the same time, we sent a survey to our staff to see what their perspective was and again, this proved to be very useful.

The majority of feedback from both families and staff have been very positive but there are certainly improvements that can be made to ensure that all students receive the same experience. We will be writing to you shortly with a more detailed update on what the issues raised were, what we have done to resolve the issues and also what families can do to support us with this work. Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the survey and I know you will look forward to the more detailed information that we will send out soon.

COVID-19 in Telford and Wrekin

You may be aware that currently, COVID-19 cases in Telford and Wrekin remain high and above the national average. It is therefore vital that all of us act swiftly should our children/students (or we!) develop symptoms.

By now, we are all familiar with the main COVID-19 symptoms where a test is required and the requirement to isolate with our households if we develop any of the symptoms. As a reminder, the symptoms are:

- continuous cough
- loss of taste or smell
- high temperature

Please ensure that if your child develops any of these symptoms, they must not come to school. Please report their absence through the usual absence procedures and book a test as soon as possible for them.

In addition to the above symptoms, Telford and Wrekin Council are now offering 'precautionary tests' for anyone who develops these symptoms:

- Headaches
- Aches and Pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Tummy ache in children

If your child develops any of these symptoms, please book them in for a test. **In line with the guidance we have received from the Local Authority, there is no need for them to isolate if they feel well enough to come to school unless their test result comes back positive.**

The link to book a test is as follows:

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/condition>

When you reach the page that asks why you are booking a test, please select this option:

Why are you asking for a test?

I've been told to get another coronavirus test

I'm ordering for someone I live with who has coronavirus symptoms

My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms

I'm part of the National Tactical Response Group (NTRG), or someone I live with is

None of the above

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COVID-19 Procedures in School

We would be very grateful if all families could ensure that their child has a supply of face coverings that they bring to school every day as we are noticing an increase of students going to their Small School office requesting a mask. Although there is a large stock of PPE in school, this is for staff and for genuine cases where a student may have forgotten their face covering. We would like to keep up the exemplary standards of COVID-secure procedures we have as identified by the LA Health and Safety Lead Inspector, but this will become increasingly more difficult if we are having to constantly supply PPE to students as well because of the financial impact to school.

Families have been incredibly supportive to date so this is just a reminder to everyone and for us as a school to be proactive before it does become an issue. We thank you in advance for speaking to your child, reminding them of the importance of wearing a face covering, and purchasing these for them.

Student COVID-19 Conduct in Newport

The vast majority of our students always uphold the high standards of behaviour we expect of Burton Borough School students, even when in town. We have numerous members of the public writing in to say how wonderful and considerate our students are which is fantastic for us as a school to hear. However, we recently had a couple of reports from members of the public to say that some of our students are not social distancing from them and not always wearing a face covering when entering shops. We would really appreciate it if families could



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speak to their children to reinforce the importance of social distancing/wearing a face covering and help them understand that there are vulnerable people who will be extremely nervous of catching COVID-19 because it will be detrimental to their health or worse. As a school, we will also continue to have these conversations with them.

As I have acknowledged in previous correspondence, there will be families who will not agree with the measures the government has decided, what the school has put in place in terms of COVID-secure measures as a result of government guidance or that the school is even open during the pandemic. At the other end of the scale, there will also be some families who believe that COVID-19 is a conspiracy and that we should all stop wearing masks and social distancing. We all have our views and opinions on what we think is the correct way to handle the pandemic so I thank you all for supporting the school with what we are required to do by the government and the decisions we have made that in our opinion, keeps our students as safe as possible from COVID-19 in school.

We do firmly believe that the best place for children is in school and we will continue to do whatever we can to make it as COVID-secure as it possibly can be. We ask that all families join us in reiterating the messages in this letter.

Thank you for your support as ever!

With all good wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter
Principal



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