

6th May 2021
16:00

Dear Families,

Re: Update on meetings with Public Health England and the Health Protection Hub/ Further reiteration of COVID-19 isolation guidance

I am writing to update you on the current situation at Burton Borough School following the outbreak we experienced towards the end of last week and over the bank holiday weekend.

On Tuesday following Bank Holiday Monday, we had the Health Protection Hub (HPH) come in to review the processes and Covid-secure procedures we have in school, looking thoroughly at the products we use, speaking to staff and walking around the site. Outcomes of this were shared with Public Health England (PHE) and a meeting with the HPH, PHE and Burton Borough School was held yesterday. The reasons for the outbreak were discussed, looking at timelines of when symptoms were shown for each student and their families (where applicable), when lateral flow and PCR tests were taken, when these were reported to the school, the timetables of each student and the seating plans for each lesson.

I am very pleased to say that both the Health Protection Hub and Public Health England praised our internal procedures for keeping Burton Borough School Covid-secure. Public Health England commented that we as a school have done everything 'well above and beyond the book' and was very complimentary with how quickly we dealt with the outbreak across multiple areas.

It is believed that the outbreak has been caused by a family member who returned from international travel and despite a household member having Covid symptoms, the household did not isolate as they should have done and the child who attends Burton Borough School was sent in.

With any outbreak, the situation will not have concluded yet despite us not having a case since Monday this week – the BBS Covid Rapid Response Team are on standby. Although our year 9 students have all been asked to take a PCR test (this is the laboratory test and not the rapid 30 minute lateral flow tests) and we have not been notified of any positive results, **there could still be an incubation period where if a further test is taken, it could come back positive.** Children also tend to be asymptomatic or have short-lived symptoms.

I will continue to be in contact with the Health Protection Hub and Public Health England and it may be, another round of PCR testing for all of year 9 may have to take place – more information to follow if this is necessary.

Public Health England have said that if you or your child does not 'feel right', please isolate and get a PCR test straight away – there should be zero threshold on this.

Over the last couple of days, we are still finding families saying that their child has symptoms but because they have negative lateral flow tests, whether their child can come back to



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school. The answer for this is no. **If anyone has any symptoms, they must book themselves for a PCR test at a testing site. A lateral flow 30 minute test is not a suitable alternative.**

We also had a family send their children in today despite another household member having symptoms yesterday. I would like to reiterate that **if anyone in your household has symptoms you must not send your child/children to school and your whole household MUST isolate.**

Sending your child/children in is putting everybody at risk, not just at Burton Borough School but also in the wider community. As a result of one family not following the guidance, nearly 230 students and their families in year 9 have been affected and inconvenienced. The students of the four teachers who also had to isolate have lost out on face to face teaching. We do not want any more students or staff losing out on face to face teaching and learning time and families being inconvenienced – **this cannot happen unless everybody follows isolation rules and gets a PCR test where it is needed.**

Government guidance on isolation can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Just to reiterate, please **do not** send your children to school if they display any Covid-19 symptoms or if there is another member of the household who is displaying symptoms. This is the same for any household who has a member tested positive for COVID-19. **Please isolate at home for 10 days and book a PCR test.** In addition:

1. **If any member of your family develops any Covid symptoms and/or is tested positive for Covid-19 with a PCR test your whole household MUST isolate for 10 days.**
2. **If your child is tested positive with a lateral flow test, please do not send them into school and take them to a PCR testing centre as soon as possible. You must isolate until the PCR test results come back and continue to isolate if the result is positive.**
3. **If your child has any of the other possible symptoms of Covid-19 (and we are finding that children tend to have these symptoms more), we would be grateful if you could take them for a PCR test and isolate until the results are back. The list for these symptoms are can be found below (purple).**

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are as follows and a PCR test must be taken:

- **A high temperature**
- **A continuous cough**
- **A loss of sense of taste or smell**

Other possible symptoms of Covid-19 which you can also arrange your child to have a PCR test for if they are displaying symptoms are:

- **Shortness of breath**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Sore throat**
- **Runny nose**



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- Sneezing
- Headache
- Aches and Pains
- Fatigue or feeling tired for no good reason
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Tummy Ache (especially in children)

Finally, if your child is tested positive for Covid-19 please email us at the specific Covid email address and not to individual staff members so that those who can respond to the situation are alerted:

covid.bbs@taw.org.uk

Thank you to everyone for following Covid guidance and keeping our community safe.

Best wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter
Principal



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