

Dear Parents,

We understand what an anxious time this is at the moment, and wanted to try to help by sharing with you the latest guidance from Public Health Wales, the Local Authority and the Welsh Government, regarding getting your child tested for Covid.

Guidance can change, and has changed again since last week, but this is what we know at this current time. We are still waiting for some additional guidance from Flintshire County Council and I will share that with you as soon as it arrives in school.

Background

- You will be aware that in order for school to open, we have had to undertake a rigorous Risk Assessment process which has been scrutinised by the Local Authority and external advisors. This assessment includes the measures and procedures we have put in place in school to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

What do I do if my child is displaying symptoms? How do I know if they need a test?

If your child displays the following symptoms (The three identified symptoms of COVID-19 are):

- A new persistent cough
- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or more
- A loss of taste or smell

Although not on the official list of symptoms, we know that children who have tested positive, have also experienced stomach problems.

please book them in for a test by phoning 119 (Between 7am and 11pm daily) or through the online portal: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

If in doubt, please phone NHS 111 for advice (see link below for list of symptoms)
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

and keep them and any siblings at home for 14 days. Siblings should also be tested if they start to develop symptoms.

What should I do?:

1. Keep your child at home and follow the Test, Trace and Protect procedure.
2. Contact school and let us know that your child is being tested.
3. Your household must also self-isolate as you wait for the test results.
4. Stay at home if you, or anyone you live with or anyone in your extended household has Covid-19 symptoms
5. Do not visit a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital but if you require medical advice please contact NHS 111 or telephone your GP; if there is a medical emergency phone 999
6. As soon as you receive the results of the test, it is your responsibility to notify school.
7. Please follow the advice provided when your child receives their test result.
8. Even if the test is negative, your child should stay at home until all of the symptoms have disappeared, to avoid spreading coughs and colds.

9. When your child has been tested, they may return to school, following a negative test, if all of the symptoms have disappeared.

If your child develops symptoms in school, we will call you to ask you to collect them and their siblings and advise you to book a test.

What if my child tests positive?

Please inform the school straight away. Then phone 119 and go through the Government's Test, Trace and Protect procedures. The NHS Test, Trace and Protect procedures will get in touch with your child's contacts. The Contact Tracer will ask for details of your recent close contacts, they will explain what this means and help you through the process.

A close contact is:

- a) someone within 1 metre of you with whom you have had a face-to-face conversation, had skin-to-skin physical contact, you have coughed on, or been on other forms of contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer
- b) someone within 2 metres of you for more than 15 minutes
- c) someone you have travelled in a vehicle with or seated near you in public transport.

It is important that your child stays off for 10 days from when the symptoms started. If they have tested positive, but are not experiencing symptoms, they must still self-isolate for 10 days from the day the test was taken. You should seek medical advice to ensure that your child is symptom-free before returning to school.

What if another child at school tests positive?

If a child tests positive and your child is in their contact group, you will be asked to keep your child at home. The contact group and their teachers and TA's may be requested for a test by TTP. You will be contacted by school and a member of the Test, Trace and Protect team. School will need to wait until the Tracer has contacted school before we can advise if your child is able to return to school or will need to remain home and self-isolate

If your child needs to self-isolate for 14 days, they will be able to access work provided from school via Google Classroom if they are well enough to complete the tasks.

Following a negative test result and if your child has no symptoms, they still need to self-isolate for 14 days along with the contact group / Bubble.

In the meantime, your child's classroom will be deep cleaned, the Local Authority will be notified, and the rest of school will carry on as usual.

My child has a cough and a cold- what do I do?

At this time of year, we usually see many coughs and colds. Currently, this can cause confusion and anxiety in parents.

You know your child best- check the Covid symptoms, on the link above or phone 111 for advice. If you feel your child needs a test, follow the procedures as listed above.

If your child has a cough and cold and is unwell, but doesn't have Covid symptoms, you may wish to keep them off school until they feel better.

Similarly, with other illnesses, which we often see in school, if your child has diarrhoea and vomiting, please keep them off for 48 hours after they were last ill.

My child has come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 out of school, what should I do?

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If your child is living with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 then they need to follow guidance on self-isolation. If they have been identified as a confirmed contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus then they will be contacted by the NHS Wales Test, Trace and Protect service. The Contact Tracer will advise you to ensure that your child self-isolates for 14 days from their last contact with the person who has tested positive. In this instance, your child should not attend school but can continue their learning from home.

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What measures have been put in place to ensure my child is safe?

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The safety of our children and staff is our main priority and school staff have been working hard since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak to put health and safety measures in place. Learning areas, classrooms and the playgrounds are set out to minimise contact between individuals, guidance signage is clearly displayed across the site and additional hand cleaning and sanitising areas have been provided. Our opening, closing and internal timetables are staggered to reduce the number of people in an area at any one time. In addition, enhanced cleaning schedules are in place throughout the day. Measures will continue to be updated in line with the latest Welsh Government guidance.

Further information on symptoms and self-isolation can be found here

<https://gov.wales/symptoms-and-self-isolation-contact-tracing>

Further formation on Test, Trace, Protect can be found here <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-coronavirus>

For general information on COVID-19 <https://gov.wales/protect-yourself-others-coronavirus>

The COVID-19 online symptom checker can tell you if you need medical help and advise you what to do <https://gov.wales/check-if-you-need-coronavirus-medical-help>

Keep safe,

Mr R Jones