

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to you as we come towards the end of the first full week of the school year. I want to start by saying a huge thank you to our pupils, staff and parents/carers for the calm and purposeful way in which you have all approached the return to school. The children have been remarkable and it has been so good to see their enthusiasm for returning to school. I am also deeply grateful to the many governors who serve our schools so well, particularly in these challenging times.

I am attaching with this letter a document that I hope will be helpful in supporting you with some of the difficult decisions that we all have to make in relation to health and the symptoms associated with a range of illnesses at this time of year. Our Headteachers and staff are being called upon to advise in all sorts of scenarios currently. They will do all they can to support you but they are not medical experts so please do all you can to follow the official advice and, if you are asked to collect or child from school, or to not send them in, we kindly ask that you respect that.

Unfortunately, this week we faced the scenario of having to close one of our year group bubbles at the Trinity in Devizes, following a positive test in a pupil. I would like to pay tribute to the whole school community and the leadership of Mrs Allender, for the calm and measured way in which this was dealt with. We appreciate how difficult this is for the families involved - thank you for your co-operation. In these situations, we will always be guided by the public health officials. They have been very pleased with our plans and approaches that are in place, so that is reassuring. Currently, it seems inevitable that these things will happen from time to time. By working together, hopefully we can minimise the risks and proceed with as little disruption as possible.

Should a child or another family member be taking a test for Covid-19, I would like to ask you to inform the school as soon as possible, and certainly that you let us know immediately you receive the result, whether positive or negative. Whilst positive tests will be notified to us through the national system, there is inevitably a delay, which can be crucial. If you are able to notify us immediately, this will make a big difference. Please be aware that where someone has a suspected case of the virus, our response will be very different to where there is a positive test. The vast majority of suspected cases come back negative. You will only be notified by us where there are confirmed positive cases and the response will be based on the dynamic risk assessment that is carried out with public health officials.

For your guidance, we received the following this week from Yvonne Doyle of Public Health England:

*"Crucial to our overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop those symptoms. It is vital that we learn from the recent Scottish experience, where the return of schools saw a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms. We want to avoid a similar surge in test demand as*

*England's schools and colleges return to ensure that we continue to prioritise our testing capacity for those with symptoms and to avoid children, students and their families self-isolating unnecessarily. To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:*

- *they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:*
  - *a high temperature*
  - *a new, continuous cough*
  - *the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or*
- *they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)*

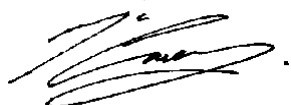
*If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual."*

Our schools are planning to take part in the national flu vaccination programme this Autumn and further details of this will follow in due course. Clearly this will only happen with the appropriate consents.

As we get things up and running again this term, things will look different, but we are working through new approaches to the likes of parent/carers consultation meetings, extra-curricular activities, homework and online learning. Your school's Headteacher will keep you posted with developments locally and we all remain committed to doing the very best for you and your families. [A copy of the Trust's new Strategic Plan is available on our website should you wish to see the range of things we will be working on this year.](#)

I wish you well for the weeks ahead and, once again, thank you for your support for our schools.

Best wishes,







Mark Lacey  
Chief Executive

# COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents / carers





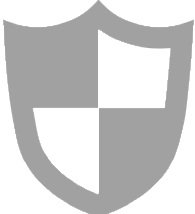

Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust  
*'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'*

Please follow the advice in this guide. Please only contact the school if your child is having a test and to let us know the result. Your school will not be able to advise beyond the information given here.

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p><b>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Child should get a test</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when child's test comes back negative and symptom free for 48 hours</b></p>
 <p><b>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>...when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours</b> They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p>
 <p><b>...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Household member with symptoms should get a test</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</b></p>
 <p><b>...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days</b></p>

\* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p><b>...NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms* or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace)—even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> <li>• Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</b></p>
 <p><b>...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</li> <li>• Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</li> <li>• Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days—even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</b></p>
 <p><b>...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</li> <li>• Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</b></p>
 <p><b>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</li> <li>• People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</b></p>

\* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>