MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING
Executive Headteacher: Mr A. Johnson
BA (Hons), MSc, PgCert, FCCT, NPQH

81 Crescent Road,
Reading, RG1 5SL
0118 966 8065
MERoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk
@MESReading

19 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Notification of positive COVID-19 test result

I am writing to inform you that we have been notified of a positive case of COVID-19 relating to a Year 10 student. As previously notified to you, we do have an obligation to carry out contract tracing in respect of positive cases within the school community until Wednesday 23 December.

On receiving the notification, we contacted The Department for Education to discuss the situation and to clarify the action we need to take. We have identified a small number of staff members and approximately 31 year 10 students as close contacts. The parents of the affected students have been emailed today to advise isolation until Monday 21 December 2020. **Parents of students in year 10 who are not required to isolate as a result of this case will receive a message to confirm this by 1pm today.** If you do not receive a message and are unsure whether your child needs to isolate, please contact us on meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org and we will confirm this for you.

Please can I remind all parents to notify us of the onset of symptoms or a positive test result in accordance with the guidance available here.

Once again, it is critical that should your child or anyone in the household display symptoms, the guidance below is followed. Please can I also remind all parents/ guardians that students should not attend school if anybody in the household is symptomatic or is awaiting test results.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via https://www.nhs.uk/askfor-a-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronaviruscovid-19-infection

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough;
- a high temperature;
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-havecoronavirus-symptoms/ or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;
- wash your hands as soon as you get home;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further Information

Further information is available at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher