

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

20th September 2021

FAO: Parents & Carers of Students in Year 8 at Denton Community College

RE: Covid-19 Update



Dear Parents and Carers

We have been advised by Tameside Council's Public Health Team that there have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Year 8 at Denton Community College and have asked us to share the following information.

In line with the national guidance, children aged under 18 years are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. However, close contacts of positive cases are advised to take a PCR test. Your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms or test positive.

Action Needed

As your child may be a close contact, **Public Health are asking for your child to have a PCR test.** This will help them to identify and isolate cases, prevent onward transmission and minimise our case rates. If this test is positive, your child must isolate for 10 days.

Please go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test to book this test.

1. You will be asked to identify whether your child has COVID symptoms. Unless your child has symptoms, you should select '**No**' for this answer and proceed through the questions.
2. When you get to the question 'Why are you asking for a test?' you should select the box that says **I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional.**
3. Then choose the option that states: **My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms**
4. You can then book the test.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19?

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate and you should arrange a test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or by calling 119.

If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result. If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so.

Please visit the link to Public Health England's guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infections:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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Symptoms of COVID-19

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

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

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 COVID-19:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water 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
- Allow ventilation into your house or workplace by opening windows and doors
- Try to meet people outdoors if possible
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately after using them and then wash your hands
- Take regular Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests at least twice a week. These can be ordered for home delivery from

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Test and Trace Support Payments

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This now applies to parents / carers who cannot work from home and will lose income by self-isolating or staying at home to care for the child.

Further details are available via: <https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

In school, we are monitoring the situation closely and will continue to work closely with our colleagues in Public Health. We continue to ensure all rooms are well-ventilated, are encouraging the continued regular hand hygiene routines, have maintained some changes such as separate lunches and we have continued to only operate virtual assemblies. We still strongly encourage the twice-weekly use of Lateral Flow Tests by students. If you would like to participate in these please contact [Mr Nixon](#) here in school.

Please remember, although COVID-19 is circulating in the community, usual childhood illnesses are too; and it is important that these are not missed. Please contact your GP or NHS111 if you are worried; or call 999 if seriously unwell.

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

Yours sincerely,

Donald Cumming
Deputy Headteacher