



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Thursday 5th November 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Coronavirus Update

I trust your family had a restful half term break. As we enter the second half term of the academic year, I thought it would be useful to write to you with an update about a number of things pertaining to the management of coronavirus within school.

COVID related absences

Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in their household has symptoms of coronavirus (high temp, cough or loss of taste/smell). Ensure you notify school of the absence.

Book a test (call 119 or go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>).

Your household should isolate for 14 days.

Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in their household is awaiting the results of a coronavirus test.

Notify the school immediately of the test result – this is especially important if the result is positive. During school hours, ring the main office. Out of hours (after 4 pm Monday to Friday and at weekends) email covid@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk.

If the test is negative, the household can end their isolation and your child can return to school.

If the test is positive, the household should remain in isolation and your child should not attend school.

COVID related absences do not negatively impact on your child's attendance. Work will be provided for any learner who is required to isolate.

You can find our helpful COVID related absences FAQ document [here](#) and a useful document from Public Health on absences [here](#).

Sickness and Diarrhoea

Do not send your child to school if they have sickness and/or diarrhoea. Learners should only return to school 48 hours after they last had an episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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Confirmed Cases of Coronavirus

I wrote to families last month explaining our policy in the event of a confirmed case of coronavirus within school. You can find the letter [here](#). The policy in action is proving highly effective in protecting the health of our learners and their families whilst minimising the impact on too many learners' attendance at and learning within school.

New Government Restrictions

You will no doubt be aware that the Prime Minister made a statement on Saturday 31st October detailing his plans for a second lockdown in England, which commenced today (Thursday 5th November 2020). You can find an overview of the new restrictions [here](#).

The government has announced that schools will remain open during this period and that learners should continue to attend school as normal.

The school does have robust plans in place in the event the government takes further steps and decides to partially or fully close schools. You can find details of our tiered opening plans [here](#).

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (shielding) children and family members

The government released new advice on those children and family members who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable yesterday. You can read this guidance [here](#).

Anyone who falls into the category of being clinically extremely vulnerable can expect to receive updated shielding advice via email/letter.

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice. Speak to your GP or specialist clinician if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

For those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable, they are advised not to attend school whilst this advice is in place. Please contact me at school and we will make appropriate arrangements for your child to be able to continue their education at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

If any families have any concerns about their child's continued attendance at school in light of the new restrictions/shielding advice I would strongly encourage you to contact me so we can discuss this.

Critical Workers

As part of our contingency planning for a partial school closure, we are seeking, once again, to update our records pertaining to parents who are critical workers. You can find the definition of a critical worker [here](#).

If any parents/carers do qualify as critical workers, I would be grateful if you could email keyworkers@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk to notify us. Please detail your child's name and year group, alongside your name, job role and employer.

As ever, if you have any further questions about any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael Potter
Education Welfare Manager