

Monday 21st September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

Informing the school of COVID suspected symptoms

As children return to schools after a prolonged break, we expect colds and similar viral infections to circulate.* We must be clear on which symptoms will warrant testing for COVID-19 and those which do not justify testing. This will ensure that children/staff are not unnecessarily kept away from schools and exposed to inappropriate testing.

Evidence suggests that COVID-19 is milder in children than in adults, most children present with mild symptoms or are asymptomatic and very few develop severe or life-threatening disease. Evidence regarding transmission in schools is extremely reassuring.

Therefore, children with simple cold symptoms, such as coryzal symptoms (runny noses) or sore throats without fever should not be tested for COVID-19. These children should remain at home until the symptoms abate and return to school when feeling well.

COVID SYMPTOMS

Children/staff who present with more than one of the stated symptoms of Coronavirus should go home, self-isolate and seek a COVID-19 test. These symptoms are:

1. **A high temperature (hot to touch on chest or back)**
2. **A new and continuous cough (coughing for more than one hour OR 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)**
3. **Loss or change to sense of smell or taste**

Thus, children with only one mild symptom, such as a cough OR high temperature, that abates within 1-3 days can return to school if a health professional (GP or 111/119 consultant) has stated that they are safe to do so. If other symptoms of COVID-19 appear, the child/staff member should stay away from school and seek a Coronavirus test.

We believe that these are sensible, common-sense measures that still provide protection to staff, children and families whilst at the same time maintaining a cautious and careful approach to our risk assessment. As with all aspects of this risk assessment, this will be kept under constant review.

**taken from a report from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health*

P.T.O

Informing the school of COVID suspected symptoms:-

1. If your child has COVID symptoms please inform the child's head of year and Attendance Office by email:

Attendance Office – Ms Kentake	m.kentake@arkacademy.org
Year 7 – Ms Kelly	c.kelly@arkacademy.org
Year 8 – Mr Asare	d.asare@arkacademy.org
Year 9 – Ms Kelman	g.kelman@arkacademy.org
Year 10 – Ms Macivor	j.macivor@arkacademy.org
Year 11 – Mr Foster	m.foster@arkacademy.org
Year 12 – Ms Rogers	k.rogers@arkacademy.org
Year 13 – Mr Triantafilidis	n.triantafilidis@arkacademy.org

2. Please seek a test and notify the **Head of Year of the result (positive or negative)** and please send a **picture of the test result**.
3. The Head of Year will then pass on the information immediately to the Principal who will keep all relevant staff informed.
4. **If the test is positive**
 - We will liaise with Public Health England and follow their advice
 - We will inform parents of a positive test result and the steps we have taken to prevent the virus spreading
 - Part of or whole year groups are sent home at short notice

Currently, we have no confirmed COVID cases within the school. However, we remain vigilant and ready to respond if the circumstances change.

It is worth noting that the school is separated into zones to prevent students from mixing with others. This limits the contact that any one student has with others.

Of course, your children's well-being and safety is of paramount importance and we will continue to ensure the most stringent measures are in place so they can be educated safely and effectively.

Yours sincerely



Delia Smith
Principal

The process:



What happens if a child or staff member shows symptoms of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).



If a child/staff member or someone they live with displays symptoms **at home**, they must not come to school.



If a child/staff member displays symptoms **at school**, we will send them home along with their sibling/s (or any other children who live in the same home).



They must have a test as soon as possible to see if they have the virus.
They'll have to stay at home until they have their results.



If a child or member of staff has a positive test they need to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
If a child or member of staff has a unclear test they need to get a retest till they get a clear result and continue isolating for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of smell or taste.



If a child tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they just have a cough or changes to sense of smell or taste – these can last for weeks after the infection has gone.
They should contact the school and can stop self-isolating and return to school.



We'll send a letter to let you know that someone in your child's bubble has tested positive for Coronavirus.



For primaries, this will mean sending the whole bubble home. Everyone in that bubble will then have to self-isolate for 14 days. For secondaries, those who have been in 'close contact' with the infected person will need to be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

If anyone sent home starts to develop symptoms, they should get a test for Coronavirus and let us know the outcome.



Pupils who are isolating will have access to remote provision so that they can continue to learn remotely



We'll make sure the classroom has a deep clean and we'll send you a letter confirming when the bubble can return.