



George Mitchell School

Saeed Hussain, Executive Headteacher
Farmer Road Leyton London E10 5DN
Tel: (020) 8539 6198 Fax: (020) 8988 9658
e-mail: georgemitchell@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
Attendance hotline Secondary: 020 8988 9682
Attendance hotline Primary: 020 8988 9687
Website address: www.georgemitchellschool.co.uk

20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Over the last two weeks we have seen an increase in the number of people in our school community who have tested positive. So far we have had four adults test positive and six secondary students test positive. As a result of this a number of children in the secondary school have been sent home to self-isolate as have a number of staff. This is purely a *precautionary* measure and not because they have tested positive. There is no discernible link between the cases but it is clear that COVID19 has manifested itself in this part of London and I know that many other schools across London are also seeing a rise in positive cases.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the London Coronavirus Response Centre to identify which individuals to send home to self-isolate and to review our school protocols and procedures. The children and adults who have been in close contact with the individuals who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have all received a letter informing them that they must stay at home for 14 days.

This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well or participate in virtual learning via Google classroom if they are self-isolating.

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/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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

The 14-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 14 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)

If your child develops any one of these cases, please do NOT send them to school. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness but it is important that we do not inadvertently infect vulnerable members of our community.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> 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,



Saeed Hussain
Executive Headteacher

