



1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

## Covid-19 Advice from the Director of Public Health for Somerset

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have been advised by Public Health England (PHE) that there continues to be confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Hinton St George School, despite the school following all public health advice. This is similar to other settings in Somerset and is due to the highly infectious nature of covid19

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. Regardless of severity, for many parents and carers this remains a concerning time. This letter is to inform you of the confirmed cases and provide advice on how to support your child. We are constantly working with Public Health Specialists at both the County Council and PHE to monitor this situation and provide you with updates.

Somerset County Council's Public Health Team (SCCPH) have conducted a risk assessment. There is evidence of **ongoing established** transmission **within this setting and the wider community**. We have been advised to put in place exceptional measures to help break chains of transmission:

- **Move to remote learning between Monday 4<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**, 'as a short-term measure and as a last resort'.
- **Ensuring that all children test negative on PCR test before they return to school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

### We would also request parents to ensure the following:

- Children who are confirmed cases of COVID-19 complete self-isolation in their own home.
- To prevent avoidable spread in school, households and staff are asked to do twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing, you can get these test kits from [Coronavirus – Get a test if you do not have symptoms \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus-get-a-test-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms). Positive test results should be reported to the [school/nursery/child-care setting] (as previously) and be followed-up with a PCR test. LFD tests are not suitable for children under the age of 11.
- Moving to remote learning is an extreme measure which we know will have impacts on parents and so we would request that parents help the school to return to on site learning as soon as possible by limiting social mixing during this period of time, to stop the virus spreading further.

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

However mild the symptoms, please book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken an LFD test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or by calling 119.

If the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol). If the test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test). **As we are in an outbreak situation, siblings of cases cannot return to school until they have had a negative PCR test. If they then develop symptoms, they will need to undertake a further PCR test and if this is positive start their 10 day isolation period**

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

### **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.

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – 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
- Bin used tissues immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Ventilate indoor spaces as well as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: [www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results](https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results)

**For further information**, please visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Hall  
Headteacher

Alison Bell  
Consultant in Public Health,  
Somerset County Council