



# Backwell School

A National Teaching School

Station Road, Backwell,  
Bristol BS48 3BX  
Tel: 01275 463371  
mailbox@backwellschool.net  
www.backwellschool.net

Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

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Dear Parent/Carer

## **COVID-19 case: update for the school community**

Today we were informed of a positive COVID-19 case within the Backwell School student body. A significant number of schools in the local area have seen confirmed cases in recent days, and being such a large school, a positive test in our school community was very likely, and this is probably the first of a number over the coming weeks and months.

We understand that that you may find this concerning. We are working very closely with the Department for Education and Public Health England to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to manage the situation and reduce the risk of transmission. The children who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case have all had separate email contact from the school and will be required to stay at home for a period of self-isolation. We will also undertake additional cleaning in certain areas of the school site.

If you have not been contacted by us, or by NHS Track and Trace, your son/ daughter has not been identified as a close contact and should continue to attend school as normal.

## **Precautions in school**

We have clear precautions in place in the school and the vast majority of students have been excellent in following these. Clearly the confirmation of a positive case makes it even more important that every member of the community meets these expectations. As a reminder, students should:

- wash 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 hands as soon as you get home
- cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash hands or sanitise afterwards

As you are aware, students are expected to wear face coverings (unless exempt) when in corridors, in indoor communal areas and on transport (coach, bus or train) to school.

## **What to do if a student has coronavirus symptoms**

It is essential to self-isolate at home and book a coronavirus test if a student develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

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.

There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Guidance from the NHS on when to request a test can be found here: [https://b92abb43-7b4b-4062-9981-3c54993b7c22.filesusr.com/ugd/9f7569\\_b69e29f7ec1149fa9bc2eedf555e7e13.pdf](https://b92abb43-7b4b-4062-9981-3c54993b7c22.filesusr.com/ugd/9f7569_b69e29f7ec1149fa9bc2eedf555e7e13.pdf)

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'. 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.

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.

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>

### **What to do if you are told to self-isolate**

If you are told to self-isolate, you should remain at home for 14 days. You do not need to get a COVID-19 test unless you develop symptoms. It is possible to test negative for COVID19 whilst the virus is in its incubation stage, which can be up to 14 days. Therefore, if you are told to self-isolate, you must self-isolate for 14 days no matter what. Please do inform us here at the school if this situation arises for your child.

### **Be careful, but stay calm**

It is quite natural that news of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school community will cause some additional anxiety. However, I have great belief in the Backwell Community and that staff and students will take the responsibility necessary to ensure that they are protecting themselves and each other. Please be assured that, working in partnership with the local Health Protection Team, we are doing all we can to ensure we all stay safe, and keep the school open for as many students as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher