



The Blue Coat School

www.blue-coat.oldham.sch.uk

Proud to be part of the Cranmer Education Trust

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Our Reference: RHIGG/CLA/536

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, on Sunday evening a pupil in Year 10 tested positive for COVID-19. All pupils in Year 10 have stayed at home today whilst we worked with the Oldham Public Health Team to complete a track and trace.

As we have clear systems in place that track pupil movement to school, at social time, as well as having detailed seating plans for all lessons, we have been able to identify pupils who are classed as contacts to the case. A contact is a child or adult who has been within 2 metres of the confirmed case for more than 15 minutes, or within 1 metre for 1 minute, or has been face-to-face during social time, or has been in close contact on a designated school bus.

We have identified 85 pupils as contacts. These pupils will now have to isolate for 14 days, as per Government guidance. The families of the pupils have all been notified and are aware that they cannot return to school until Thursday, 24th September. The transmission for this case occurred in the community, not the school. Tomorrow, pupils in Year 10 who are not contacts of the case will be able to return to school.

I would like to thank all parents of Year 10 pupils for their support by keeping students at home today, and also thank those families with children who need to self-isolate for 14 days for their patience and understanding. Please remember it is the pupil who needs to self-isolate for 14 days, not the entire family. If the pupil subsequently starts to develop any symptoms, the entire family must self-isolate, and the student must go for a COVID-19 test.

Can I take this opportunity to remind everyone about the symptoms for COVID-19. Please **do not** send your child to school if they have

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature),
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual),
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Can I also remind you that if any member of your household starts to display symptoms, the entire family must self-isolate until the family member with symptoms records a negative test. Please **do not** send your child to school if any household members have symptoms.

We are all aware of how challenging the year ahead is going to be, but this case illustrates that our systems for track and trace and methods for communication are robust and reliable.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Higgins (MA)
Headteacher
The Blue Coat School

