



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/539

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Dear Parent/Carer,

A member of our school has tested positive for COVID-19. We are working closely with Oldham Public Health Team to complete a track and trace and to reduce the risk of infection for your children and our staff. We have discussed this third case with Public Health who believe that this is unconnected to the previous cases and the pupil concerned has not been in school for six days. However, on the advice of public health we have identified a group of students, isolated them and will be sending them home as a precaution.

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 are 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 contacted the families of the children who are close 'contacts'. These pupils will now have to isolate for 14 days, as per Government guidance. 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.

Students who have not been identified as a contact do not need to self-isolate and should attend school as normal tomorrow if they are well.

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 we aim to work with you to maintain the best learning opportunities for students whilst keeping them, our staff and your families safe.

Yours sincerely,

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

