

Southview School – response to a confirmed/suspected case of Coronavirus – July 2020.

We recognise that in a busy school environment coughs, colds and other minor illness is inevitable, particularly with the upcoming colder weather in the Autumn and Winter. This protocol is therefore split into two parts; a suspected case of the virus, and a confirmed case. This protocol applies to both adults and children in school.

A suspected case/general illness.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (NHS advice now is that you do not need to measure your temperature. Previously a high temperature was anything over 37.8C.)
- **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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Staff who become ill should follow the schools usual absence management procedures. Staff should be particularly vigilant of symptoms of corona virus, but should be mindful there is an 'overlap' between these symptoms and many other minor ailments. Corona virus symptoms will be displayed throughout the school. Staff should seek the advice of school leaders if they become ill during the school day. **The school will also ask parents to be extra vigilant with their children, and keep children off school if they are showing ANY signs of illness. It would be fair to say that we will be taking a slightly over cautious approach, but I hope parents understand that this is to keep everyone as safe as possible.**

If someone becomes ill during the day, AND is displaying symptoms of the virus the following protocol will be put in place:

- A designated first aider and senior management will be informed.
- The person will be isolated in the medical room and wear a face mask, if this is possible. Their temperature will be checked periodically.
- Designated first aider/senior leader to wear medical mask, apron, disposable gloves and a face shield. In the event of child illness, the office will call the parents to inform parents, and depending on timings/availability, ask that the child is collected from school immediately. In the event of adult illness, the adult will remain isolated until a clear path to the front door is confirmed, or arrangements are in place for the person to be collected from school.
- Once the person has left the medical room, it will be cleaned and wiped down using appropriate products. PPE items will be disposed of in the yellow bags, and PPE

will be worn whilst cleaning the room. Any facilities used by the child or member of staff will be wiped down with appropriate sanitising products.

- We will request that anyone suspected of having coronavirus takes a test as soon as practicably possible.

We currently await the delivery of our supply of home testing kits and advice from the teams from Test and Trace and contract tracing process to advise further. I hope the position on this will become clearer over the summer.

In the event of a confirmed case:

We recognise that having a confirmed case of coronavirus at school will clearly be an anxious time for both staff, children and their families. We will do all we can to support those individuals or groups through this time.

- Children and staff in the immediate bubble will be sent home to self-isolate / perform a test. The class room bubble will be closed for a minimum of 24 hours to enable the room to be deep cleaned. Anyone testing positive will have to be away from school for a minimum of seven days whilst advice is sought from Test and Trace. It may well be that any confirmed cases at school are part of a wider local outbreak and we will, of course, follow any advice/instruction from the relevant authorities.
- There will be an immediate text message to all parents to inform you that we have a confirmed case, when this information becomes available. An individual staff member or child will not be named, but we will make everyone aware of the bubble they were based in. Please be aware that this may be during the evening or over the weekend and we would ask parents and carers to ensure we have up to date contact numbers for you. During school hours, Julian, Jenny Pete or Carolynne will be available to discuss the situation and advise, or signpost parents towards relevant advice.