

September 8 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Suspected Cases of Coronavirus

This week we have had a number of calls from parents/carers who have children who are poorly.

As in our previous information, the current guidance says, it could be coronavirus if the symptoms are:

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)**
- **Loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**

(Children may also display gastrointestinal symptoms.)

We appreciate that there will be many children who have 'cold' like symptoms over the next few months, which may include the above. It is important that, if a child is unwell that they stay at home and, if they display any of the symptoms, they should be tested.

Testing

If your child is having a test, even if this is 'just to be on the safe side', they must stay at home **along with all family members**, until the test result comes back.

If the test is negative, they may then return to school and family members may return to school/work.

Family members do not need a test unless they have symptoms.

If the result is positive, the child must remain at home for 10 days and family members must remain at home for 14 days. In that time, if a family member becomes ill, they must remain at home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms.

If you choose not to have your child tested, they must remain at home for the 10 days following onset of the symptoms and family members should stay at home for 14 days.

It is vital that the results of the test – negative or positive – are shared with the school so that we can take appropriate action.

How to book a Test

Online portal <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

or by contacting **NHS 119 via telephone**

We are aware that some of the testing centres allocated are a distance away. If you cannot get there, we have been advised by a parent that when they came out of the portal and re-entered it and were offered a closer centre. If this doesn't work, ring 119. At the moment, it looks like they are struggling to maintain capacity to provide tests. In an emergency, we have a very limited number of test kits in school but I am not sure how long this supply will last.

If you are unsure about whether your child needs a test contact your GP or call NHS