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10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Information for Parents/ Carers: COVID-19 Symptoms, Illness and Attendance

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope that your child has settled back into St Joseph's and is enjoying learning, playing and praying with their friends in their contact group.

Whenever schools start a new academic year, they always experience some illness with pupils and staff. This is completely normal as there are different groups of people coming together. In addition, schools start in the Autumn Term which is approaching the 'winter months' when people will often contract colds and the flu.

This year we need to be extremely vigilant with any illness your child or a member of the household contracts. We need to ensure we balance a cautious but common-sense approach. In this letter, I hope to answer some questions that you may have about the symptoms of Covid-19, illness and attendance.

### **Should my child attend school if they have any COVID symptoms, or live with someone who has COVID symptoms?**

Under no circumstances should pupils attend schools if they:

- feel unwell
- have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Parents and carers should check their child's temperature before bringing them to school if they suspect the child is unwell. Please ring the school to report that your child or a family member is ill.

### **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

#### **A High Temperature**

A high temperature: this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. When possible, it is good to use a thermometer to measure temperature.

#### **A New Continuous Cough**

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 of Smell and Taste**

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.

## **Will pupils be tested for COVID-19?**

It is essential that any pupil, teacher or staff member who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, does not attend the school, follows the self-isolation guidance and accesses a test at a testing site or at home using the [online booking portal](#). All symptomatic members of the public, including critical workers and children, are now able to book a test if they wish. Children will not be tested in school. If required, families will need to book the test.

If an individual has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose or sore throat, they do not need to be tested or to self-isolate. This link contains a helpful video on when to get your child tested.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTDbNz-1F3c&feature=youtu.be>

## **How do I book a COVID-19 test?**

Booking a free coronavirus (COVID-19) test is done through the [online booking portal](#). This will then give you a range of testing options available in your local area. These will usually be:

- **Test centre** - Booking a test at a drive-in test centre is likely to be the fastest way to get a test.
- **Home test kit** – Staff and parents/carers can order a home test kit for themselves or up to three members of their household.

If you do not have access to a computer or mobile phone/tablet, kits can also be ordered by calling 119.

Individuals should self-isolate until they receive a negative result or, in the case of a positive result, for the period advised by the contact tracing team. Please inform us immediately of the results of a test and send us confirmation of the result.

## **What happens if someone at school shows symptoms of COVID-19?**

If a learner shows symptoms at school, they will be kept separate in an isolation room and parents will be called immediately to come and collect them. Any member of staff displaying symptoms will leave the school premises immediately and arrange a test.

PPE will be made available for staff supervising learners that are unwell.

Anyone displaying symptoms should stay at home for 10 working days (\*subject to change depending on the latest advice from Public Health Wales and Welsh Government) from the onset of symptoms.

They should arrange to be tested immediately to determine if they are a confirmed case and should remain home until results are confirmed.

Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) will intervene should a learner test positive for COVID-19.

Anyone who lives with someone displaying symptoms but remains well or who has tested positive should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person became ill.

## **What happens if there is an outbreak in school?**

If there is a case of COVID-19 in a school, then experts from across the NHS and local government will work together to prevent ongoing transmission within the school.

This will involve identifying those exposed, any child or staff member who is at increased risk and the provision of tailored infection control advice.

Advice based on the assessment of each individual situation will be provided to support the school in preventing further spread. This may include isolating a class or contact group.

Parents and carers will be kept informed of the situation by the school.

## **How will schools monitor attendance?**

Regular attendance will be essential to help learners catch up on missed education, make progress and promote their well-being and wider development. Learners of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies, such as sickness.

Schools will keep a record of attendance and families should notify their school if their child is unable to attend.

Schools will not be reporting on attendance to the Welsh Government or to Parents/ Carers this term.

## **Will my child receive learning to complete at home if they are unwell?**

In line with our sickness policy, pupils who are generally unwell or have symptoms of COVID-19 and are waiting the results of a COVID-19 test, will not be required to complete learning at home.

Pupils who are isolating for 10 or 14 days will receive learning to complete at home through the *hwb* class folder and Google Classroom.

We are currently in the process of setting up the new Google Classrooms and *hwb* folders in preparation for an individual or whole-class need to self-isolate. Over the next couple of weeks pupils will have opportunity to access both during lesson time to familiarise themselves with the process again.

For an individual case within the class, we will also endeavour to bring 'paper' workbooks, reading books etc to you.

We have also purchased *SeeSaw for Schools*, which we're hoping will support our digital and remote learning better. Following staff training, we plan to hold socially distanced parent information sessions to engage parents with how to access the new platform.

I hope that the information above goes some way to resolve any queries you may have. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

Kind regards,



Mrs Taylor  
Headteacher