



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM**
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

15 September 2020

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

Advice to All Parents – Covid-19

I hope you are well and continuing to cope with the recent uncertainties related to Covid-19.

We have been really pleased with the way students have settled back to school. They have adapted well to the new conditions and displayed a high level of maturity and responsibility.

As we move forward, it is important that we are all clear about the recent guidance issued by the Government. This states that 'Schools must minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school'.

The main symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 or above)
- A new continuous cough (this means that 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)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If anyone at school becomes unwell with the above symptoms, they will be sent home. If you are unsure or you want further clarification on the symptoms you can seek advice from NHS111 at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19>

It is essential that we all follow the guidance which we have summarised below. This is applicable to staff, students and parents.

1. What to do if a student has coronavirus symptoms:

- The student must stay at home and start a 10-day period of isolation.
- Book a test as soon as possible. To do this visit the NHS website or follow this link [arrange to have a test, or call 119](#)
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital unless it is an emergency

2. What will happen and what to do if a student's test is positive and shows they have coronavirus:

- If the test shows that a student has coronavirus, they will be contacted by text, email or phone and will be asked to provide information about the people they have been close to recently.
- The student and all other members of their family must remain in isolation at home.
- After 10 days if the student still has a high temperature, they must stay at home and away from people until they feel better. They can only return to school once they are well.
- After 10 days if the student has only a cough and/or loss of sense of taste or smell they don't have to stay home and away from people any longer and can return to school.
- Everyone else they share the house with must still stay at home for 14 days from the first day that the student felt poorly, even if they feel well themselves, or test 'negative' during this period. In this instance, a negative test does not erase the need, as a household member, to isolate for the duration of the statutory 14-day period, because they may not have developed the virus yet.

3. What to do if a student's test is negative:

- This means that the student is at low risk of having coronavirus.
- Other members of the household can stop self-isolating. If the student feels well and no longer has symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can also stop self-isolating and return to school. If the student is unwell for a different reason, such as a cold or flu, they should remain at home and avoid contact with other people until they are better. When the student feels well enough, they can return to school.

4. What to do if someone a student shares their home with has coronavirus symptoms, and/or tests positive for the virus

- If someone else living in the student's home (i.e. a parent, a sibling, or anyone else who lives in their home) has signs of coronavirus the student must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days, whether they have coronavirus symptoms or not. This is crucial to avoid unknowingly spreading the virus.
- If the student then starts to have coronavirus symptoms, they should stay at home and not meet up with other people for 10 days from when their symptoms started. In this instance, the student must also seek a test (see point 1 above)

5. What to do if your child has returned from a country which is not on the travel corridor:exemption list

Coronavirus regulations mean that your child and any other members of the household who have returned to the UK must self-isolate for 14 days from when they arrive in the UK. NB: this requirement is not altered by receiving a negative Covid-19 test during this period – the 14 day isolation period still applies.

6. How to get a test:

Online using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you don't have access to the internet, you can get a test by phoning 119.

7. What to do if anyone in the student's household is contacted by the NHS 'Track & Trace' service:

If you are contacted by 'Track & Trace' and receive advice that your child should self-isolate at home, you must inform the school immediately and follow the advice you have been given.

8. Will my child receive work to complete at home during a period of isolation?

The school will provide work for students through Microsoft Teams.

Transport:

I would value your support in reminding students that they **must** wear face coverings on the buses to and from school. The face covering needs to be in place as they board the vehicle and not be removed until they have completely left the vehicle. This is extremely important to ensure transport can remain in place at all schools and the risk of infection is minimised. Where students repeatedly fail to wear a face covering and they are not medically exempt, they will be identified and could lose their place on the bus.

Finally, I will write to all parents at the end of this week with an update of the start of term. I will also inform you of any modifications we have made to the organisation.

If you need clarification on any of the matters raised in this letter, please contact us through the relevant channels.

Yours sincerely



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