



21 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been made aware of more than one confirmed positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19) at The Link Academy in 8MH.

Education and childcare settings are no longer required to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

This letter is just for your information and you do not need to take any action at this stage. If your child is identified as a close contact, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and they will provide you with advice and guidance about what you need to do.

Households of nursery, school and college aged children are strongly encouraged to take part in twice-weekly lateral flow testing. This is because 1 in 3 people have coronavirus without displaying symptoms. If all families participate, it gives us the best chance of keeping our school safe and avoiding further transmission. For information on how to access lateral flow test kits visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19)

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should isolate immediately and arrange a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. The rules on [self-isolation have changed](#).

Close contacts of a positive case (including households) no longer need to self-isolate if they are:

- fully vaccinated
- are under the age of 18 and 6 months
- can't have the vaccination for medical reasons
- or have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

Any household members that are over 18 and 6 months and are not fully vaccinated will need to isolate. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

In addition to the above main Covid-19 symptoms, if your child develops any of the following symptoms, it is also recommended they arrange a PCR test: *loss of appetite, sore throat, extreme tiredness, sneezing, headache, diarrhoea, joint or muscle ache, vomiting, nausea, rash, runny nose or congestion*. This is because these other symptoms have also been linked to Covid-19 infection. Individuals with any of these other symptoms (apart from diarrhoea and vomiting) **can carry on attending their setting** if they are well enough to do so. For more information please visit www.dudley.gov.uk/coronavirustesting



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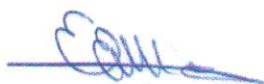
For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Further Information

Further information is available at
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Mrs Emma Edwards-Morgan
Principal