

YSGOL Y DDRAIG



11th September 2020

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome children back and we hope they have enjoyed being back with us too. At the beginning of a new academic year, schools always experience some illness with pupils and staff, this is completely normal as there are different groups of people coming together. The Autumn Term and the approach into the 'winter months' is also the time when people will often contract coughs and colds.

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. Please be mindful that there may be a time when contact groups are needing to self-isolate. This will be inconvenient for families but also absolutely necessary.

We hope the following information is helpful in answering any questions you may have on the symptoms of COVID-19, illness and attendance.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- **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** - 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** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

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 (see above)
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

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

Will pupils be tested for COVID-19?

It is essential that any pupil, teacher or staff member who has 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.

[COVID testing for children](#)

How do I book a COVID-19 test?

Booking a free coronavirus (COVID-19) test is done through the online booking portal. This will 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.

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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.

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 awaiting 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.

Please find a quick reference guide at the end of this letter which you may find useful. I hope that all the information goes some way to resolve any queries you may have. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

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Ty Golding
Headteacher

COVID-19 Quick Reference Guide for Parents

What to do if....	Action Needed	Return to school when....
My child has COVID-19 symptoms: • high temperature • a new, continuous cough • a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us, self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Get a test. Inform school as soon as test results come back	The test comes back negative
My child has tested positive for COVID-19	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us, agree an earliest date for possible return. Self-isolate the rest of the household for 14 days	They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks.
My child has tested negative for COVID-19	CONTACT THE SCHOOL Discuss a return to school either that day or the next day	The test comes back negative
My child is ill with symptoms not linked to COVID-19	Follow the school's normal absence policy and procedure. Ring the school to log all absence	They feel better. Allow 48 hours following the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea if this is the cause of absence.
Someone in my household has COVID-19 symptoms	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school and self-isolate the whole household for 14 days, household members to get tested, inform school as soon as test results come back	The test comes back negative
Someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school, agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days	The child has completed 14 days of isolation.
NHS Test & Trace has identified that my child has been in close contact with someone with symptoms of confirmed COVID-19	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school, agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days	The child has completed 14 days of isolation.
We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine	Consider quarantine requirements when booking travel, absence will be considered as unauthorised during term time, agree an earliest date for possible return.	The child has completed 14 days of isolation.
We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school, shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted	There is a change to your child's medical advice and restrictions are lifted
My child's bubble is closed due to a COVID-19 outbreak in school	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Online learning will be provided by school, your child will need to isolate for 14 days.	The school informs you that the bubble will reopen.