TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF CLOSE CONTACTS OF COVID-19 IN **OAK CLASS**

Dear parent or carer,

We have been made aware of confirmed positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) at Twerton Infant School and Nursery.

We have followed the national guidance and, following a risk assessment with UKHSA and B&NES Public Health, have been informed that this may indicate an outbreak. Changes to the national Department for Education guidance on 19 July 2021 have removed the general requirement on education settings to identify all close contacts of students and staff with COVID-19. However, education settings are still required to take necessary actions to prevent further spread of COVID infection if an outbreak occurs in their setting.

We have identified that your child has been in close contact with an individual who has had a positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19). We therefore are writing to advise you of this and that your child should continue to attend our setting but should seek a PCR test as soon as possible, report the result to us and, if you are happy for them to do so, use rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests at home to test daily for up to seven days whilst you await the PCR results. We also ask that you be alert to signs and symptoms of COVID-19. You can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread and follow the actions in this letter. **When ordering a PCR test it is important to check the box (online) or tell 119 'I've been told to get a test by my health protection team' and not 'I've been told to get a test by my school or nursery'.**

If you have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance here Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Getting a PCR test for a close contact of a case?

Please book a test via: Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) or by calling 119. You should not arrange to have a PCR test if you have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

Accessing and using LFD tests for close contacts
You can order these online LFD tests online via: Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) or collect them from a community pharmacy. You should not use LFD tests if you are symptomatic (isolate and book a PCR test) or have previously received a

positive PCR test result in the last 90 days. LFD tests can be undertaken by secondary aged pupils and primary aged pupils at their parent/carers' discretion.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. This is the case **even if** they have previously tested negative on an LFD or PCR test. If negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to the setting once they are well (including at least 24 hours fever free); if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. 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).

If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August
Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread. As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in regular LFD testing

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating. If you are a health or social care worker who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is additional guidance available that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test and follow the guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

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.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results

Further Information

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

Yours sincerely,

George Samios

Mr G. Samios
Headteacher