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22nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 Update – Thursday 22nd October 2020

We would like to inform all families that last night we had our first confirmed case of Covid-19 at Weymouth College, followed by a second confirmed case this morning. The students have followed the correct procedures and have self-isolated during the testing phase. All students within the bubble guidelines were notified last night with regards to the initial case, and this morning for the second case, and all have been advised to follow the guidelines for strict isolation for a 14 day period after the last point of contact with those students.

We remain confident that our established systems of control are sufficiently robust in design to limit the spread of the virus and quick action by both students and staff have minimised further risk.

If you or your child have any covid-19 related concerns, please contact the Weymouth College covid-19 email to notify us of any emerging situations: covid@weymouth.ac.uk

We continue to follow guidance from Public Health England in our identification of the 'close contacts' of anyone to receive a positive Covid -19 test. Full details of the definition for such close contacts can be found on the gov.uk site [here](#), but the key elements most relevant to College settings are:

- Face to face conversation within 1 metre
- Proximity contact within 1 metre for over 1 minute
- Proximity contact within 2 metres for over 15 minutes

Where students or staff are identified as close contacts, they are required to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their contact with the positive case, whilst other members of their household do not need to self-isolate.

We would once again like to remind families that the most effective thing that all students can do to support our efforts to limit transmission is to consistently adhere to *covid-safe* hygiene practices and wherever possible, appropriate social distancing. Furthermore, it remains an essential requirement that where a student develops symptoms of the virus, they do not attend College, and that they seek a test at the earliest opportunity. Equally where a student resides within a household where someone else develops symptoms, the student must not come into school until that member of their household has received a negative outcome for a test, or 14 days after that person first developed symptoms. To be clear, students must not wait until the member of their household receives confirmation from a positive test before they stop coming to school – they must begin self-isolation once symptoms emerge.

We recognise that such requirements can create difficulties for families, as well as the obvious potential disruption to students' education. To mitigate this, we will continue to support students who need to self-isolate through remote learning.

We remain very grateful to all within our community for their ongoing support in reinforcing appropriate messaging regarding *covid-safe* practices.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Evans
Principal and CEO



Further Guidance

What to do if your child develops symptoms of Covid-19

If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19, they must not come to College and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, College 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 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough.
- a high temperature.
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

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 COVID-19 spreading

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

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- wash your hands as soon as you get home.
- 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.

Further Information

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