



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

St Mary's Way, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6HY

Telephone: 01462 892347

E-mail: admin@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk

www.stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Verity Edey

Deputy Head: Mrs Kathryn Thorp

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

There is an expectation from the local authority that, as a school, we are "on call" over the Christmas holidays to support local test and trace procedures.

Should we have a confirmed case of COVID-10 in our school community and to ensure that we are able to quickly identify those who are close contacts and therefore need to self-isolate, we have set up a dedicated email address for you to report a positive test result. (See below)

How might a positive case impact my child and our family over the school holidays?

The positive cases where we need to take action are:

Scenario 1: Children or members of staff who develop symptoms 48 hours after leaving school on the last day and then test positive for COVID-19. (Those in the bubble would need to be told to self-isolate for 14 days)

Scenario 2: Children or members of staff who develop symptoms and test positive after Saturday 26th December (These people cannot return to school on the first day back – 10 days after symptoms)

Scenario 3: We also would want to make sure that any close contacts of Scenario 2 above would also not return or anyone else who has had close contact with someone who is positive. (These children/staff cannot return to school for 14 days from that person's symptoms starting)

IMPORTANT

It is essential that you contact us using the email address below if:

1. Your child tests positive for COVID-19 after leaving school on **Friday 18th December up to, and including, Monday 4th January.**
2. You become aware that your family has been a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 over the Christmas holidays (on or after Saturday 26th December)

**Please note that members of staff will be required to contact me directly and this may also impact a class/bubble of children*

You **MUST** urgently provide the following details and send to:

covid@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk

'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God'

- Name of person who has tested positive
- Relation to the child at the school (if not the child)
- Class (bubble) the child is in
- Date of first symptoms
- Date of positive test results
- Details of **ANY** 'close contacts' of a positive case outside of school

What is a 'Close Contact'?

For the purposes of contact tracing and isolation, 'close contact' means having face-to-face contact with someone less than a metre away (even if a face-covering or face-mask is worn) or being within 2 metres of an infected person for 15 minutes or more.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

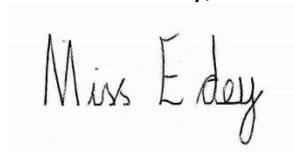
Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Thank you for your on-going, amazing support and understanding,

Yours sincerely,



Miss V Edey
Headteacher