



15th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know that we have had a second confirmed case of coronavirus for a student at Canons. I want to reassure you as far as I can by letting you know the following points:

- Both cases came from outside the school community.
- The cases are from two different year groups and are completely unconnected.
- Each of the students were in school for a very short period of time, just two hours in one case and one day in the other.
- The students and their families knew what symptoms to look out for and the processes for contacting the school. We have been grateful for their continued engagement with us.
- The school knows exactly which students and staff were close to the students involved and these people are now self-isolating for a period to 14 days.
- We have been in contact with all the families of all students involved. If we have not contacted you, it is because there is nothing for you to worry about with your own children.
- Public Health England (PHE) have only advised us to send home eleven students and four members of staff across both cases. No whole-class or whole-year bubbles have needed to be sent home based on PHE's expert guidance having assessed our provision and actions.

I appreciate that many of you will be concerned or anxious about this news. As I have mentioned, though, there is no evidence that there has been any spread within our school community. As I mentioned above, the measures that we have put in place for the start of term have meant that we have not been required to send the whole class or year group home. This has not been the case for many other schools that have had confirmed cases and so I would like to thank again each one of our staff and students for adhering to these measures. It will be important to continue to do so.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The school remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review. Public Health England have asked us to remind all students and families of the following key pieces of information about staying safe.

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.



**At the Heart of Our Community,
with Community at Our Heart.**

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. 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 can, 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.

In this situation please contact us via the AttendanceTeam@canons.harrow.sch.uk email address, by messaging us via EduLink or by calling the school switchboard on 0208 951 5780. Contact by email is our preferred and quickest method of contact.

Symptoms

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

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

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

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> 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 sleeve (not hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further Information Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Yours sincerely



Keven Bartle - Headteacher