



17th March 2020

Re: COVID-19 contingency planning for partial school closure

Dear Parents/Carers

Following yesterday's announcement by the government, please refer to the advice online, particularly regarding self-isolation. In summary:

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal.
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home.
- where a member of a household is showing symptoms of COVID-19 then all members of the family should self-isolate for the designated period of time in accordance with PHE guidance.
- if a student becomes unwell during the school day, we will inform you and they must be collected from school and should self-isolate for the designated period of time in accordance with PHE guidance.

Government Advice:

Ending self-isolation and household-isolation

If you have been symptomatic, then you may end your self-isolation after 7 days. The 7-day period starts from the day when you first became ill

If living with others, then all household members who remain well may end household-isolation after 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day illness began in the first person to become ill. Fourteen days is the incubation period for coronavirus; people who remain well after 14 days are unlikely to be infectious.

After 7 days, if the first person to become ill feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine. If any other family members become unwell during the 14-day household-isolation period, they should follow the same advice - i.e. after 7 days of their



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symptoms starting, if they feel better and no longer have a high temperature, they can also return to their normal routine.

*Should a household member develop coronavirus symptoms late in the 14-day household-isolation period (eg on day 13 or day 14) **the isolation period does not need to be extended, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days.** The 14-day household-isolation period will have greatly reduced the overall amount of infection the rest of the household could pass on, and it is not necessary to re-start 14 days of isolation for the whole household. This will have provided a high level of community protection. Further isolation of members of this household will provide very little additional community protection.*

At the end of the 14-day period, any family member who has not become unwell can leave household isolation.

If any ill person in the household has not had any signs of improvement and have not already sought medical advice, they should contact [NHS 111 online](#). If your home has no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

The cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean someone must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days.

This new advice will result in significant staff absence through self-isolation or because staff need to care for their families. There are plans in place to ensure classes are covered and we will strive to deliver the best teaching and learning possible. However, with potentially high staff absence, we may have to resort to partial closure of the school.

Partial closing will take place when a critical number of staff are no longer available to work. By partially closing the school to specific year groups over time, we are better placed to keep open despite significant disruption. Prolonged absence from school is to be avoided and, therefore, our plan would be to rotate so that different year groups work from home each day.

For example, we may close the school to Year 12 on Mondays and Wednesday, Year 9 on Tuesday, Year 8 on Thursday, and Year 10 on Friday. We would try to avoid closing the Charvil primary site to classes or to Wargrave Year 7 children. If we do need to implement a partial closure, you will be informed via SchoolComms and the school website.

If you work in the **health, education, child care or emergency services sectors**, your children will still be able to attend school, even if their year group is not attending school that day, providing they are well/not self-isolating. If you are in this category, please let your child's Head of Year know in advance so that suitable cover can be arranged.



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Lessons are prioritised to continue for Year 11 and 13 in preparation for their public exams. Where possible staff will try to set work for those year groups who are working at home but please remember that staff will be under considerable pressure managing and covering colleagues' absences.

Parents will be concerned about the impact the current situation may have on GCSE and A Level exams. There is currently no indication from DfE to suggest exams will not go ahead as planned.

Thank you for your on-going support and understanding during this unprecedented time as we continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our students and staff.

Yours faithfully



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Headteacher



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