

St Monica's R.C. High School

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September 21st 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you today to inform you there has been a further confirmed pupil case of COVID-19 in school. Over the weekend we also received notification of a confirmed case for a member of the school support staff. This member of staff does not routinely work with any pupils in the school.

We have reviewed and carried out a further full risk assessment to identify those who have been in close contact with the affected cases. This was done in conjunction with Public Health England and the Bury Health Protection team. They have recommended that those contacts stay at home and self-isolate until 14 days after their last contact with the affected individuals. The parents of the small number of pupils affected were contacted this morning, and I spoke to all these pupils this morning before they left the school site.

Your child has not been identified as a close contact and therefore does not need to make any change to their usual routine, including school attendance.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child, or anyone in your household, develops these symptoms, your whole household must remain at home and not go to work, school or public areas. You should arrange testing for the person who has developed symptoms. When the result is known further advice will be available.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: nhs.uk/coronavirus.

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

- 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
- maintain an appropriate social distance with non-household members of over 2 metres.

Further information is available at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

We continue to be extremely vigilant in school and our approach has thus far ensured that we do not need to self-isolate any full year groups. Any decisions we are taking are made under the direction of Public Health England and the Bury Health Protection team. We will continue to follow their guidance over the coming days and months.

I remain grateful and humbled by the overwhelming support being shown to our school by parents during what I can only describe as the most challenging time of my professional career. Together we will keep on going.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Foley

Headteacher

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