



**Wivelsfield Primary School**  
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15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In a bid to provide some clarity, in what is proving to be a very subjective area, please read what follows carefully about coughs and colds in school. It does, by necessity, contain a lot of information.

### **Coughs in the Covi-19 era**

It is a fine balancing act in trying to ensure that children with run of the mill coughs and colds can remain in school, while ensuring that any children who might have contracted Covid-19, are properly cared for.

You, as parents and carers will know your children best. You will know the sort of coughs and colds which they have historically developed and how they cope with such an illness.

The Covid-19 symptoms, according to Public Health England, remain:

- (i) A new persistent cough; and/or,
- (ii) temp 37.8°C or above; and/or,
- (iii) loss of sense of taste or smell.

It is the cough which creates the biggest uncertainty. In some internet articles the coughing (symptom) is often described as a “dry” cough but PHE does not limit the symptom to just a dry cough. A new dry cough which is persistent would mean a negative Covid-19 test is required before your child should return to school.

If however, the cough accompanies a runny nose and a sore throat, and you believe objectively that your child is suffering from a cold, then in the absence of either of the other symptoms, your child should continue to attend school.

If your child has a cough or cold and you are worried about their temperature but do not have a thermometer at home, please ask the school to borrow a thermometer in order to take your child’s temperature, prior to them entering the school building.

If the only symptom is a cough, your starting point should be: would I have sent my child to school, with such a cough, pre Covid-19? In other words, is it the kind of cough you have seen in your child before?

If the answer is “no”, then the child should remain at home and be monitored for further symptoms. If the answer is “yes”, then your child can attend school.

If you have provided your child with over the counter medication, such as Calpol, your child should remain at home. Calpol will seek to reduce a child’s temperature making it hard to monitor your child for additional symptoms.

### **Who should obtain a Covid-19 test?**

#### **Only people with symptoms are required to take a Covid-19 test.**

If any member of your household (anyone who lives within the same four walls as you) develops Covid-19 symptoms, the person with symptoms should obtain a Covid-19 test and the entire household should isolate pending the outcome of that test.

If the test result is negative, a child within that household can return to school immediately that the test result is confirmed. If the test is positive, the person who tested positive needs to self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started. They can then return to school unless they still have a temperature or feel unwell. The rest of the household should isolate for 14 days.

### **What will happen if someone at Wivelsfield School contracts Covid-19?**

If it is a school child or a member of staff, who develops symptoms and requires a test, we will not notify parents at that point. This is in line with DfE and PHE guidance.

If that test returns a positive result, at that point all parents with children within that same year group/bubble will be notified and advice will be taken from PHE.

If your child is in a year group/bubble which is sent home to self-isolate, based on the PHE advice, but symptoms do not develop in your child during those 14 days, then on the fifteenth day, they can return to school. If symptoms do develop in that time, they should obtain their own test and notify the school of its result accordingly.

If there are further positive test results (after the initial one) from the same year group/bubble, during that 14-day isolation period, those new positive results would not act to reset the isolation clock, for the remaining children in the class/bubble, who develop no symptoms at all.

Please also refer to the flow chart that has been sent out as an initial quick guide. However, please note that we would want your child to remain at home and access a test if their temperature is 37.8 or above not 38 or above as shown.

If you have queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will advise accordingly. It is lovely to have the children back in the school and we want that to continue. Please work with us, in trying to ensure the entire school community remains safe.

Kind regards,



Helen Smith

Headteacher



Rhodri James

Safeguarding Governor

