



Inspire to Aspire

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COVID19 – Updated NHS advice and guidance

Monday, September 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to make you aware of subtle changes that have been made to the NHS Coronavirus website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>) and helpline. An extract from the page can be found overleaf.

These changes are influencing decisions that we are instructed to make in respect to the attendance of children and staff in our schools. They appear to have removed any ambiguity which will invariably lead to a greater number of people needing testing and therefore, needing to stay at home until they have a result. For example, we received advice today that a child with a cough that a parent firmly believes is a symptom of a cold, must go home and book to be tested for COVID-19.

This advice will obviously cause us, and you some inconvenience. We all really want our children in school and learning! However, we also appreciate that this is a cautious approach by the NHS that is aimed at minimising virus spread, quickly identifying those with COVID-19 and also enabling people without COVID-19 to return to normal life.

Please can I ask for your help with this approach if your child is showing any of the symptoms overleaf, by contacting the NHS 111 service to get advice and guidance. Thank you

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you're worried about your symptoms
- you're not sure what to do

[Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#)

Call 111 if you cannot get help online. Do not go to places like a GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy.

I would also like to make you aware that we have contingency planning in place should we, at late notice, need to close a bubble within a school, or even the school in its entirety. The process will closely follow those procedures we already have in place for inclement weather, with the addition that we will have a remote learning platform in place (Microsoft Teams). Schools will release this information to you shortly to ensure you are informed of the process they will take. Hopefully we will never need to use it!

Thank you for your continued support of your child's school

Yours sincerely

Dafydd Lawday
Chief Executive Officer, Mercian Educational Trust



EXTRACT – NHS WEBSITE 14/09/2020

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

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

