

Dear parents/carers,

We would just like to give you an update on the current situation with COVID 19 within our school. We currently have an increasing number of positive cases in school with several pending tests still due to come in.

A few of our cases have tested negative on a LFT (home testing kit) but then positive on a PCR (test at a test centre). Also a few of our positive cases have not had any symptoms either and they were only tested as a precaution due to their bubble being closed.

We really want to keep our school open for as many children as possible so we urge you to get anyone in your household tested (at a test centre) if they are unwell. You must inform school if anyone in your household is going for a test, as we have to report numbers to Public Health daily. You and anyone in your household must also isolate (stay at home) while you are waiting for results to come back. Once your results are back please call school immediately in order for us to take the correct action.

As well as the 3 classic symptoms of temperature (hot to touch on chest or back), continuous cough and loss of taste/smell, we are seeing the following symptoms in positive cases (headaches, sore throats, sore eyes, blocked or runny nose, body aches, tiredness, rashes/itchy skin, swollen tonsils, bad belly - diarrhoea and feeling sick)

If in doubt, please book a PCR test at a test centre in order to keep our Pinfold community safe.

You can do this by calling 119 and stating that you have been advised to book a test by the school, health care professional, health protection team or local council.

You can also visit the following website - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Once you are on this website you will be asked a series of questions. See below for support in doing this.

- 1) On the first page, scroll down and click on Start now

Get a free PCR test

Start now >

- 2) You will then see this screen. You will need to click 'no' as your child is not an essential worker

Is the person who needs a test an essential worker?

Essential workers include NHS staff, teachers and transport staff. Check the [full list of essential workers on GOV.UK](#).

- Yes
 No
 I do not know

Continue

3) Next you need to scroll down and select 'West Midlands' and then click 'Continue'

4) You will then see this screen. If your child has a temperature (hot to touch on their chest or their back), a new, continuous cough or loss of taste/smell then click 'yes'. If you are booking the test due to any other illness or as a precaution then click 'no'

Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms?

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- new, continuous cough
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

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

- Yes, at least one of these symptoms
- No, none of these symptoms

Continue

5) If you have clicked 'yes' to the above it will take you through a series of other questions and it will allow you to book a test. If you clicked 'no' then continue to follow the guidance below

6) Click 'no' at this screen

Has the person been asked to get a follow-up test?

For example, their first test was unclear or they need to confirm a possible positive result.

- Yes
- No

Continue

7) Now click 'none of the above' and continue

Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project?

For example, they have been invited to take part in the Contact Testing Study:

- The person was told to get a test by the COVID Symptom Study app (by ZOE)
- The person has been invited to take part in the Contact Testing Study
- The person is attending an event that is part of the Events Research Programme

or

- None of the above

8) At this point click the last option 'I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional' and then the second option 'A GP or other healthcare professional has asked me to get a test'

Why are you asking for a test?

If you are getting a test for someone you live with, answer for them

- I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive for coronavirus
 - I was asked to get a test because I visited a venue where others have since tested positive
 - I've been told to get a test by my nursery, work or place of education
 - I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional
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- My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms
 - A GP or other healthcare professional has asked me to get a test

9) You will then be able to put in your child's name and details in order to book a test

ISOLATION!

If you or anyone in your household have been asked to isolate then it is compulsory that you stay at home and do this. If you do breach your isolation period this then becomes a police matter.

We would also like to remind you to continue to social distance when dropping off and collecting your child and to wear a mask on the school premises.

If you have any questions/queries or would just like to talk things through please call the school office and we will be happy to help.

Many thanks

Mrs Wilkinson