



13 February 2021

Dear Parent and Carers of the Year 7 key worker and vulnerable children,

Today, on Saturday 13th February, we have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Year 7 bubble.

As you will be aware, since the children of key workers and vulnerable children have returned to school each year group has formed their own 'bubble'. **We have followed the national guidance and have identified that your child may have had contact with the affected person.** I have therefore taken advice from Public Health England and in line with the national guidance, we are asking that your child now remains at home and self-isolates.

Public Health England have advised that all students within the Year 7 bubble will need to self-isolate from now, up until and including Sunday 21st February.

You will note this is slightly shorter than the full 10 days of isolation, this is because the isolation period starts from the last day the affected student attended school, which was Thursday 11th February. The affected student received their test result this morning (Saturday 13th February) and therefore we have immediately been working with Public Health England, the Local Authority and the Department for Education and have followed their direction by letting parents know.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the self-isolation period. If your child is well at the end of their period of self-isolation, they can return to usual activities. **They must self-isolate for 10 days even if they test negative during that time.**

We are so sorry that this will mean the Year 7 key worker and vulnerable students will have to isolate over half term, however, we are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

As a school we will continue to do all we can to limit the spread of COVID-19. We know and understand that this is a worrying time and we feel dreadfully sorry for those students who are having to remain at home and are affected by this disease. We are hopeful that our immediate action and precautionary approach will ensure that this is an isolated case.

If there are no further positive cases within the Year 7 bubble, students will be able to return to school on Monday 22nd February at the slightly later start time of 9:05am.



Below, I have included some useful sites for your reference:

Please see the link to the PHE Staying at Home Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **you should organise for your child to be tested** via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. Your household should then isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear. If this becomes the case, I would ask that you let me know as soon as possible by emailing me at pskipp@jogschool.org

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
 - high temperature and/or
 - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

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

Do:

- 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



The John of Gaunt School
A Community Academy

Further information

Further information is available at

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

We do understand that this is a really challenging and complex situation for parents and carers so do feel free to contact us at any time should you require any further clarification. We also understand that this can lead to anxiety amongst our young people, therefore if at any stage they require support, please do encourage them to contact us via the JOG Support web page, it can be found here: <https://www.johnofgauntschool.org/page/?title=Care+%26amp%3B+Support&pid=59>

Yours sincerely

Paul Skipp
Headteacher

