



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to welcome back students this term, in what has been a great start.

We have received a number of queries about attendance at school when children are presenting with what could be seasonal colds, but also displaying some of the symptoms of COVID-19. Additionally we are aware of the unavailability of testing.

Having liaised with the Department of Education we have clarified the following advice:

Children with cold symptoms but who do not have a fever, or continuous cough can come to school. If your child displays any of the COVID-19 symptoms then the child must self-isolate for 10 days whilst tests are obtained.

For clarity the symptoms are as indicated on the NHS website 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. You can obtain a test on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. We know from feedback that there can be a delay, but the website says to keep trying. We understand test appointments can be released at different times.

Other members of the family/siblings must also self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they show symptoms until the outcome of the test is known or until the 14 days has passed. Please follow our flow chart based on government guidance which is on our website:

<https://www.kingscollegguildford.com/coronavirus/>

If you are needing to self-isolate, we strongly recommend that you read the guidance available:

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

If any students feel unwell whilst at school and demonstrate any of the three symptoms, we will contact you to come and collect them and seek a test. Your family should self-isolate as per the instructions above until the result of that test are known. If the test is negative, they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If the test is positive, please inform the school immediately and we will engage with our local health protection team. They may also contact us directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus attends the school.

Those who have been in close contact with the person who tested positive must self-isolate for 14 days. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

In the event that we have to send home your child because of the close contact they have had with someone who has tested positive, be aware that household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. Should they do so, seek a test and follow the guidance above.

As ever, in difficult times, it is our community spirit and mutual support which pulls us all through. Rest assured that we are taking both the current health issues, and your child's education, extremely seriously.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. McKenzie'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr McKenzie

Principal