

17th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter has been written to give you **updated** information about how schools will respond if they find that a pupil has symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in schools. It also tells you what you should do as parents or carers in this current situation. Due to high level of demand, **AJ Bell** is currently only taking bookings for symptomatic keyworkers, not pupils. Salford City Council is increasing the capacity at AJ Bell at some point in the near future, so we hope this position may be able to change. Until further notice, please use the following guidance below.

What to do if your child is unwell

The box below provides a summary of the common symptoms of coronavirus.

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

- **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

If your child becomes unwell at home or if anyone in your household is unwell as outlined above, they should not attend school. Please let school know the reason for your child's absence and we will discuss with you if your child needs a test using the criteria above. You will only be able to book a test via the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by calling 119; we know it is currently difficult to access a test at a centre nearby so we are aware there may be a delay in arranging this. Please keep checking the website regularly as new slots do become available during the day so it's worth retrying the website every hour.

If your child becomes unwell whilst in school, we will contact you and your child will need to be sent home. Your child will be supervised separately from other children and other members of the school community while he or she is waiting to go home. Your child must remain at home while awaiting the test and the result and your child, and all members of your household, should not come into contact with other people outside of your household. You must not go to a doctors, hospital or NHS facility during this time unless symptoms become serious.

What to do when you get the results of the coronavirus test

Once you have got your child's test results, or the test results of anyone else in your household, you must phone the school and inform them of the results. Even if the results are negative, you must still tell your child's school. This is to protect the rest of the school community.

What to do if your child's coronavirus test is negative

You must inform your child's school of this straight away. Your child can return to the school provided they feel well enough. As there are other viruses circulating such as a cold or flu, it is advisable to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Household members can also end their isolation, unless someone else is awaiting results of a coronavirus test.

What to do if your child's coronavirus test is positive

You must inform your child's school of this straight away. This is so they can inform the Local Authority so that next steps can be taken to protect others.

If your child attended school in the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms and up to the point of testing, Salford public health team will work with school and your family to establish any contacts that may have been made with others in the community, both in and out of school.

Your child will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days until they feel better and symptoms have gone. A cough or lack of taste and smell might last longer than 10 days, but your child can still return to school. Advice on self-isolation will be available from Infection Control.

Your household and any other contacts must isolate for 14 days and watch for symptoms. If these appear then they will need to be tested.

What do if your child is sent home because another child in their bubble (e.g. class or year group) has tested positive?

If the other child with a positive test outcome attended the school in the 48 hours prior to symptoms appearing, a decision may be made that your child's class or year group has to go home for isolation. This is to protect members of the school community and others.

If your child is sent home, your child's school will inform you of this and your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days and watch for symptoms. If your child develops one of the above symptoms, you can book a test via the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by calling 119. Members of your household will not need to isolate, unless your own child develops symptoms. All pupils in the bubble will need to isolate for 14 days even if your child has a negative test result during this time.

We will monitor the number of suspected cases in each bubble. In certain circumstance it may be that a bubble will be asked to self-isolate prior to a confirmed test due to the number of suspected cases. We will work closely with Public Health to make this decision.

If children are sent home they will be provided with learning to complete at home during the period of isolation and we will keep in touch with you.

Further Information

For further information please follow the links below.

Guidance for parents about early Years providers and schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term#process-in-the-event-of-outbreaks>

Yours sincerely

Mr. J Marsh
Head Teacher