

11 September 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to The Open Academy this week. Thank you for your support of our school and helping to make this week such a positive one. I wanted to give you an update on how we are managing since opening and also to remind you of important information regarding what to do if you or your child develops symptoms of COVID-19.

As I shared in the newsletter this week, the return has been almost miraculous. We have recorded our highest weekly attendance ever with some year groups hitting 100% on some days. The atmosphere in the academy has been wonderful, as almost everyone appears so glad to be back and, although there has been the odd wobble, the vast majority of both staff and students are attending with both confidence and joy. So, thank you for the crucial part you have played in making this happen. I am furthermore delighted to report that students are fully respecting all our major changes to keep the community safe, the year group bubbles, the split breaks and lunches and the one way system and hand sanitising regime. Our community has risen to the COVID-19 challenge as well as we could possibly have imagined.

Across the country there are schools that have had to deal with suspected or confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19), and you may have seen examples in the news. It is important to stress that we have had **no confirmed cases within The Open Academy community at this point**. However, we must continue to be vigilant. If we do get a confirmed case will be working closely with Public Health England so that everyone who needs to know is informed, and the Test and Trace process kicks into action.

As with all schools, there have been some students who have been self-isolating since the start of term with their families, some due to illness and some due to returning from abroad and we are welcoming them back to school as and when their period of self-isolation ends. We are being vigilant in monitoring students at school and in keeping contact with families at home where students are currently absent due to illness. While there are normal colds and coughs which circulate in our population we must collectively make sure we take careful note of relevant advice so that we take the proper action if any symptoms are spotted.

The information on the following pages has been provided by Norfolk Local Authority and other sources and we are sharing it with you, with some points specific to The Open Academy, so that you are reminded what we all need to do if a potential case arises.

Kindest Regards

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Principal

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. We would also recommend getting a test as soon as possible. Information on testing is available via the links below:

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/test-trace>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

<http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/our-services/covid-19-testing-key-workers/>

- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.
- The 14 day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.
- By household members staying at home for 14 days you will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- If you are able you should, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Further information on isolation is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If your child is isolating due to developing symptoms themselves, or due to the household being in isolation or being identified as a close contact please let us know as soon as possible by ringing the school absence line. This will help us to take the right precautions at school.

Symptoms

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

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **high temperature**
- **a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

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

- Follow the guidance on social distancing
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser 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

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please see the further sheet on what you need to do regarding illness presented as a useful help guide table

Current Guidance for Parents on Coronavirus Related Absences

What to do if...	Actions needed:	Return to school when...
... my child has a high temperature and/or a persistent cough and/or loss of taste or smell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Get a test • Inform school immediately of test result 	... the test comes back negative.
... my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform school immediately of test result • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for at least 10 days 	... 10 days have passed since positive test. <i>Symptoms may last for several weeks, but the child is safe to return after 10 days.</i>
... somebody in my household has a high temperature and/or a persistent cough and/or loss of taste or smell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Household member must get a test • Inform school immediately of test result 	... the test comes back negative.
... somebody in my household tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform school immediately of test result • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
... NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a "close contact" of somebody with symptoms of coronavirus / a positive test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
... we have travelled and have to self-isolate due to quarantine measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
... we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Continue shielding until you are informed that restrictions are lifted or shielding is paused. 	... shielding restrictions have been lifted or paused.