

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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30 June 2021

Letter to wider school community

Dear Families

We have been advised by Public Health England that there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community affecting USA class (in Zone 4).

The USA class is now closed, moving to a remote learning mode, with some students needing to self-isolate until and including 9 July 2021, and others not being required to do so, but needing to join home-based learning from home. At present, we are unaware of any other Track and Trace impact of the positive case in other classes (in the zone or beyond).

I would like to take time to reassure you that we have taken all necessary actions since hearing this information to keep all students at our school as safe as possible. The self-isolation of students and staff will be followed by a thorough deep cleaning and fogging of the affected classroom and associated facilities.

Currently, the most common strain of virus in the UK is called the Delta variant and we have seen a steep rise in COVID-19 cases recently. Evidence suggests the Delta variant spreads more easily than previous strains. It is important that we are vigilant and follow public health messages to stop the spread of the virus

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

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

- **Hands:** 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
- **Face:** wear a mask in public places and on public transport; ensure it fits comfortably and covers both your mouth and nose.
- 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
- **Space:** Where possible keep 2 metres / 6 feet apart from others outside of your family / bubble.
- **Ventilate:** Where reasonably practicable, doors and windows should remain open to allow fresh air to pass through and reduce the density of COVID-19 particles indoors.
- Vaccination protects against the Delta variant, and both doses are needed for maximum coverage. Public Health are advising that it is therefore important that you

get your COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are offered. This will ensure that further spread is limited quickly and effectively.

- Continue to do asymptomatic lateral flow device testing at home, twice per week (secondary age pupils, and household members of any child in a school bubble). <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- We continue to ask that parents and carers wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up children from school.

Further Information

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

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.

If your child 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-119>.

At all times, please report any positive diagnosis to us as soon as possible via covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk so that we can help contain the spread of the virus as best as we can.

Thank you very much for your continued support – it has been a very difficult year and I am grateful for your understanding. Let's hope that next year's measures for schools are reviewed to reduce the turbulence we go through every time we have a suspected or confirmed case...

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher