

24th September 2020

Dear parents/carers

I write this morning to update parents on the developments in school in relation to Covid-19.

Yesterday we became aware of a student in our Year 11 bubble who has tested positive for Covid-19. The student was in attendance at school one day before symptoms developed but is deemed to have been infectious by PHE. In conjunction with PHE, leaders in the school followed protocol in conducting a risk assessment of the situation. As a result of this assessment 21 Year 11 students who had been in close proximity to the student have been asked to self-isolate for 14 days as a precautionary measure. They will return to school on Tuesday 6th October provided they show no Covid symptoms in the 48 hours preceding this date.

For the avoidance of doubt school remains fully open for all other students in Year 11 and year groups 7 to 10.

Our sixth form bubble remains in self-isolation following two similar cases. This isolation finishes on Friday 25th September. All sixth form students will return to school on Monday 28th September providing they have not shown Covid symptoms in the 48 hours preceding this date.

In parallel, we are aware of other students and families who are undertaking self-isolation because they have been advised to do so by Track and Trace or other health professionals. None of these students have been in school during 'infectious periods'.

We would ask that all families keep us up to date and particularly advise us immediately in the case of a positive test result for one of our students.

For all students who are self-isolating we are aiming to support with online learning. Although staff had planned for such an event can I say that things may take a little while to settle as staff are also working to teach students in school at the same time. In summary:

- All sixth form lessons are taking place online as per published timetables.
- Students in other year groups should log onto Microsoft Teams where they will find work posted. If they are experiencing difficulties with this, they should email their tutor in the first instance for support.

Our overriding aim is to keep the school fully open. In order to do this we need to minimise the chance of any student or staff attending the site who are unwell with Covid-19. If you are in doubt about whether to send your son/daughter to school, the attached summary from the NHS will be helpful.

To help clarify further, at the end of this letter we have developed a set of frequently asked questions that I hope you find helpful. We will also publish this today as a separate document on our website and continue to add to questions as they arise. If you have further questions that are not answered by our FAQs at this time, can I ask parents to email them to office@uhs.org.uk. We will do our best to address these in our FAQ mentioned above.

Can I thank parents for their understanding during this challenging period for us all.

Yours faithfully



N B Clemens
Principal

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who should self-isolate and what does this mean?

Students who have been in close contact with the positive case are asked to self-isolate until Monday 5th October. They must follow the normal government guidelines for self-isolation. This means in short that they should not leave their home for any reason. They should try to avoid contact with anyone they live with as much as possible and friends and family should not visit the home. Please note that others in the household or support bubble are not required to self-isolate at this point unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

My child is in the same bubble as a student with the positive test for COVID-19. Do they need to self-isolate?

The advice from Public Health England is that individuals only need to self-isolate if they have had close contact with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is defined as within 2 metres for a period of 15 minutes or longer. We will notify any family/student individuals who need to self-isolate.

If a student has a positive COVID-19 test and has siblings, do they need to self-isolate?

Yes. All members of the household need to self-isolate.

I believe that my child has had close contact with a sibling of a student who tested positive. Does my child need to self-isolate?

No. If a sibling develops symptoms or has a positive test, school staff will contact all families of students who have had close contact with the sibling to advise them of the next steps. School staff will update the wider school community of any further positive COVID-19 test results.

My child uses the same facilities as student bubble(s) now on self-isolation. Should I be concerned?

No. Any specialist classroom used by more than one bubble is thoroughly cleaned before and after use. Each year group bubble has its own designated toilet facilities that are cleaned throughout the day. All students are expected to follow preventative hygiene measures and use separate communal spaces.

Are face masks now mandatory at Uxbridge High?

We anticipate that face masks may become mandatory at some stage during this term. Currently the seasonal conditions allow effective ventilation and the majority of students are spending their break times in external spaces. At this time we are not recommending use of face coverings. Staff and students may use them if they wish in corridors when moving between lessons or in communal areas within the building. We are keeping this under constant review and may change this advice as we move forward. It is for this reason that we ask that all students carry a face covering (along with their own personal sanitiser at all times).

What should I do if my 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. 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. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, 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.

If a student comes into close contact with a student with a positive COVID-19 test and is asked to self-isolate, should other siblings/family member also self-isolate?

No, unless anyone in the family develops symptoms. Siblings in this situation may attend school as normal.

One or more of my children have been asked to self-isolate. Where can they access work?

Students should log onto Microsoft Teams where they will find work posted. If they are experiencing difficulties with this, they should email their tutor in the first instance for support.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

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

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature
- 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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How can we 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:

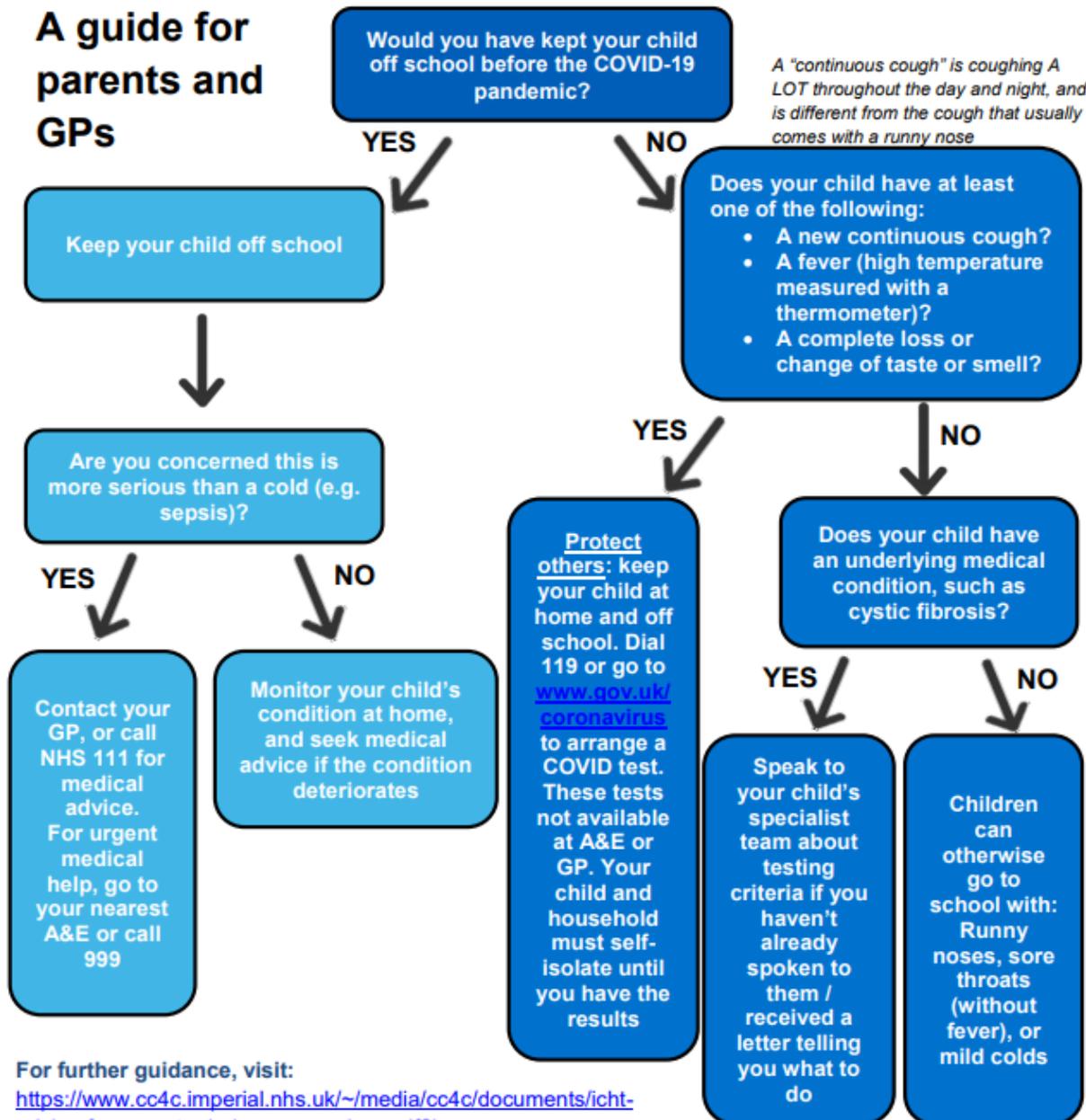
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Should I send my child to school?

A guide for parents and GPs



For further guidance, visit:
<https://www.cc4c.imperial.nhs.uk/~media/cc4c/documents/icht-advice-for-parents-during-coronavirus.pdf?la=en>

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Adapted from the original diagram by Dr Simon Hodes, Dr Ashley Reece and Dr Sarah Fissler, with thanks