



SPA ACADEMY ASKERN



Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of term I would like to make you aware of the procedure that you will need to follow, should your child have symptoms of COVID 19 and receive a positive test in the first few days after we break up for the Christmas holiday.

Even though school will break for Christmas on Friday 18th December we still need to remain vigilant until Wednesday 23rd December. This is because if a member of a bubble develops symptoms during these 6 days and tests positive for COVID 19 it would still be necessary for school to be in contact with Public Health England. This may result in us having to make contact with everyone in the bubble to 'close' it, resulting in self-isolation for those involved for the 14 days from the last point of contact.

Please find below a step by step guide to what you need to do if your child starts to display symptoms and then if they receive a positive test during these 6 days after school closes for Christmas.


Any of the following symptoms will require you to get your child tested as soon as possible:

- High temperature
- New and persistent cough
- Loss of sense of taste or smell

1. **If your child starts to develop symptoms during the period up to Wednesday 23rd December** you MUST get them tested as soon as possible. Whilst you are waiting for the results of the test, everyone in the household must also self-isolate. **The fastest way to get a test is by booking an appointment at a drive through testing facility and is therefore preferable to a home testing kit.** Home testing kits take longer to get results (resulting in you having to potentially self-isolate for longer while you wait for the test result) Therefore please only order a home testing kit if you absolutely have no way to access the drive in testing centre. You do NOT need to make contact with school at this point.
2. **If your child's test result comes back negative** you do NOT need to contact school.
3. **If your child's test result comes back positive it is very important that you contact school IMMEDIATELY.** Please do NOT telephone school as the office will not be physically operating and so telephone messages will not be picked up. Instead you need to use the school's email address: admin@askernspa.doncaster.sch.uk. In your email please include the name of your child and their year group, the date that they started with symptoms and the date that you received the positive test result.
4. If your child starts to develop symptoms from Thursday 24th December you will still need to follow the testing procedures but **you will not need** to contact school to inform us, even if the result is positive, because the key timings for a child having close contact with others is the 48 hours before symptoms start and the 10 days following a positive test result. Therefore, if children develop symptoms from Thursday 24th December, this will not impact on having to close a class bubble.

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Should your child's bubble have a reported positive test from a member of their bubble, we will contact you by email using Parent Mail. You will only need to self-isolate if your child's bubble is affected and you are informed by the school that Public Health England has advised that this needs to happen.

We would like to request that over the Christmas break you ONLY contact the school email address if your email relates to a positive COVID 19 test relating to your child, where their symptoms started up to Wednesday 23rd December. To support staff well-being, and give everyone a chance for a well -deserved rest we will not be responding to other email enquiries, unrelated to COVID 19 positive cases during the Christmas break.

School will reopen as usual on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Thank you for your support in helping us to keep everyone safe over Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Anderson
Headteacher