

# Crich Carr Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would first like to thank everyone for their support in making our return to school a positive one. After ironing out a few initial problems, everything seems to be working well and we are enjoying everyone being back at school together.

With the amount of minor illnesses that always go along with a new school year, and following some initial minor illnesses that we have already had, I thought it would be helpful to make sure everyone was up to date in terms of how to respond to any symptom associated with Covid-19, even where it might be as a result of a general cold or other illness.

The following information is an amalgamation of guidance directly from the government, which you can find here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>; the NHS, which can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/> and also information schools have been sent from the Local Authority.

**Symptoms:** Although Covid-19 can present with a number of symptoms, the ones that trigger a need to self-isolate and get a test are as follows:

- a high temperature (note that there is no longer a specific temperature given to define 'high');
- a new, continuous cough;
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

**Self-Isolation:** If you have symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, you must self-isolate until you have either received a negative test result (subject to conditions) or the time periods below are completed:

- 10 days from the onset of symptoms and 14 days for anyone else in your household and support bubble;

If, during the 14 day isolation period for the household, someone else displays symptoms, they must isolate for 10 days from that point, even if that goes beyond the original 14 days.

**Testing:** The only way to potentially not have to self-isolate for 10 or 14 days is to be tested and for everyone else in the household/support bubble **who has displayed symptoms** to be tested. The NHS website is very clear about this:

- "If you had a test because you had symptoms, you and anyone you live with must stay at home (self-isolate) until you get your result. Anyone in your support bubble must also self-isolate until you get your result"

If you, or anyone else in the house receives a positive test result, you must then continue the isolation periods above, even if someone else in the household has a negative test.

If, however, there is a negative result you can stop self-isolation, as long as (all four must apply):

- Everyone you live with **who has symptoms** tests negative;
- Everyone in your support bubble **who has symptoms** tests negative;
- You were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace;
- You feel well – if you feel unwell, stay at home until you're feeling better.

If you receive an "Unclear, void, borderline or inconclusive test result", you must continue self-isolation and book another test.

**Implications for School:** If a child at school is off because of one of the symptoms listed above, even where that symptom may appear to be a result of something else, your child will need to be tested before returning to school, or will need to self-isolate for the listed time-periods. If another member of the household has symptoms (such as a parent or a sibling at another school) then we will also expect the child to be off until appropriate tests have taken place or the self-isolation period is up.

**Getting a Test:** This bit should be relatively easy, but we know that the testing system has been struggling at the moment (quite possibly because of everything listed above!). The link to book a test is here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> and it currently is clear that you may need to try again in a few hours due to how busy they are in some areas. If you are unable to book a test (either a home test or a drive-through test), please contact school as we have been provided with a very small number of test kits (the postal versions), but we are only allowed to use them in very specific circumstances, so you must try the normal systems first before we could even consider providing a test kit. Even if we can provide a kit, it can only be to a pupil or someone who has been in school – we are not allowed to provide them to family members who do not attend the school.

**Dogs on School grounds** – It has been brought to my attention that parents are bringing their dogs into the School playground. Unfortunately this goes against our School policy and I am therefore asking that all dogs remain outside the School gates.

**Traffic at drop off and pick up time** – Traffic seems worse than usual at the moment so please take extra care around School at these times, ensuring that you hold your child's hand or keep them by your side, and keep well into the side on the pavement. Unfortunately last week a parent walking on the pavement near school was hit in the arm by a passing vans wing mirror. Although the parent wasn't seriously hurt this highlights the need for extra caution.

Kind regards,

Vicki Holmes

**18th September 2020**

