



Downs View

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Dear Parent and Carers,

Covid-19 Update

Last week there was a leap in confirmed Covid-19 cases in Brighton and Hove and numbers are continuing to rise. Currently we have one of the highest case rates in the South East of England. Although we are not seeing a significant rise in the number of people needing hospital treatment, we all need to act now to reduce transmission and avoid the risk of more vulnerable people catching the virus.

It is really important that you remain vigilant around hygiene and it is still the case that if you, your child or anyone in your household has any of the Covid-19 symptoms listed at the end of this letter that you adhere to the government guidance and that you do not send your child into school/college.

The rise in infections has had a huge impact on our staffing levels and we have had to send some children home to ensure that we are able to keep both our pupils and staff safe. Unfortunately this may continue over the next few weeks if the rates continue to increase. I understand that sending children home is not ideal but please be assured that we will do our utmost to minimise this where we can. I appreciate your support and patience whilst we work our way through the current situation.

If there is a suspected case at school/college for a pupil or a member of staff we will only send home that person and not anyone else until we get a positive test result. We will always let parents/carers know if there is a possible case in their child's bubble. If a positive case is identified within a bubble then all contacts will be traced and they will need to isolate for 10 days in line with PHE guidance.

To help minimise the risks in school/college staff are continuing to use face masks and adhere to social distancing in communal areas. We have limited visitors to school/college and we are minimising transition between sites and other provisions. Also, the majority of staff are continuing to do the lateral flow tests twice per week.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Vanessa

Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher



Covid-19 Guidance

Please remember that it is still the case that if you feel unwell or have any symptoms of Covid-19 then you must stay at home and get a test. Further details can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> If you have problems or cannot use the online service, call 119. Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19. Anyone who lives with a person who has developed any of the symptoms above must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days.