

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well, and thank you for your support of your young people in restarting their school education this session. It has been clear that our pupils have been well briefed in terms of expectations and we have been impressed with the maturity and positivity with which our young people have approached their return to school. On Monday of this week, and no doubt in days to come, we experienced very wet weather during interval and lunchtime. This allowed our new inclement weather procedures to be followed, and pupils complied with these admirably. When we have such weather in the future, pupils will be able to access their year group's specific indoor area during interval and lunch, as our staggered intervals and lunchtimes allow us to have space to accommodate pupils. Such spaces can be available for pupils before school when we have poor weather. However it is recommended that on wet mornings, as these spaces potentially would have to be accessed by all year groups prior to the school day, that pupils time their entry to school as close to the bell as possible,

As we proceed through this first term, it is of course prudent to remind ourselves of the expectations around what to do should anyone in our households display COVID-19 symptoms. Please see a summary and relevant web links below:

Scottish Government advice on what to do when someone has symptoms

The link to this advice is below. Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19, whether or not they have been tested, should self-isolate for 10 days. People who live in the same household as a person with symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days. If you have symptoms, contact the NHS to arrange to be tested at **0800 028 2816** or www.nhsinform.scot. Everyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be put in touch with the local contact tracing team so that other close contacts can be identified. These close contacts, as well as household contacts, will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/pages/who-needs-to-self-isolate/>

School policy if someone displays symptoms in school

The Scottish Government has advised that there should be a zero tolerance of coronavirus-like symptoms and that the whole school community should be vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19. Scottish Government guidance notes that the most common symptoms are :

- new Continuous cough
- fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater)
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

Further guidance on symptoms can be found on the NHS Inform website.

Any young person who has symptoms consistent with coronavirus should not attend school, and neither should anyone from their household. If it seems a young person has symptoms consistent with coronavirus, the following process will take place:

- The pupil concerned will be directed and supported to get to the medical area with all their belongings.

- The pupil will be based within a specific space in the medical area, contact will be made with the pupil's family and arrangements made for the young person to leave school to be with their family and follow NHS advice.
- The Scottish Government advise that the pupil is collected from school by an adult member of the household and not a grandparent. They will not be able to use public or school transport to make their way home.
- Until the pupil has been tested and told if it is safe to leave home, they should not come into school, and neither should anyone else from their household. If there is a positive test, the school should be informed as soon as possible.
- The class of pupils the young person was in will move to another learning space.
- The learning spaces the young person has been in will be cleaned accordingly.

In following this process it will be important to take care to not cause undue alarm for the young person concerned, or the other pupils in the class. Care for all concerned will be paramount.

Scottish Government Test and Protect system

Parents/carers should be aware of the Scottish Government's Test and Protect system. Guidance can be found at the web link below:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect>

A key message is that if someone has symptoms consistent with coronavirus, they should make sure they self-isolate at home straight away and advise the school. Until they have been tested and told if it is safe to leave home, they should not come into school, and neither should anyone else from their household. If there is a positive test, the school should be informed as soon as possible. Like all members of the public, it is possible that pupils could be advised to self-isolate by NHS contact tracing. Should this happen please contact the school and arrangements can be made to support your young person's education for the period of self-isolation.

Attending school after overseas travel

Scottish Government regulations require all those returning to Scotland from non-exempt countries to self-isolate at home or another appropriate location for 14 days. Those self-isolating should not go out to work or school or visit public areas. As you will know, the list of exempt countries has been changed in recent days, with the removal of some countries, including France and the Netherlands, where people in Scotland commonly spend their holidays. Although we know it is unlikely this will affect many families, should it be the case that these regulations apply to any pupils or their families please ensure you notify the school, do not attend for the period of time identified and follow the guidance which can be found at the web link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/>

List of exempt countries <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>.

Finally, we look forward to seeing this first full week of school progress, and to supporting our young people as they continue their return to school.

Iain Livingstone