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Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Siblings of those who have tested positive for COVID-19

The local authority, together with the local director of public health, have written to schools asking them to implement measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 locally.

These are the key messages from that letter, which they want us to share with parents.

- “We are aware of several examples where a child in one close contact group tests positive, measures are implemented to contain infection, whilst the sibling(s) of that positive child still attends school and potentially transmit onwards into a new year group.
There are other examples of where several children test positive within a close contact group and advice is given for the whole group to undertake PCR testing. Whilst awaiting results, the group remain in school only for a further number of children to test positive having continued to be in school and further transmit Covid-19 within the close contact group. It is in these ways that control of onward transmission is being significantly hindered.”

So, the actions they now want parents to take are:

- “If you have children that are taking a PCR test, you should advise that they remain absent from school until they have a negative result. If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance.
- With reference to pupils with a sibling that tests positive, you should advise that the siblings (regardless of which school they attend), should also self-isolate until undertaking a PCR test on day 3 to 5. They can then return to school if this PCR test is negative.”

So, if your child tests positive on PCR for Covid-19, their siblings should now remain at home until the results of their own PCR test is known. Siblings should take their PCR test on days three to five after the initial positive result.

Best wishes

Miss Ball