St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

'We Work, We Care, We Pray, We Share

COVID GUIDELINES – AUTUMN TERM 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well and were able to enjoy the summer.

I just wanted to keep you up-to-date with the latest government guidelines (from UK Health Security Agency) in relation to COVID-19, although they have not changed much since last term. Please see link below:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#symptoms-of-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19?utm_source=07%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Also, see extract below from UK Health Security Agency Guidance (Chapter 3: public health management of specific infectious diseases) which provides a useful summary:

UK Health Security Agency Guidance
Chapter 3: public health management of specific infectious diseases

Respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19)
Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. Symptoms can be caused by several respiratory infections including the common cold, COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
For most children these illnesses will not be serious, and they soon recover.

Symptoms
Children with respiratory infections can experience a range of symptoms including a runny nose, high temperature, cough and sore throat.
It is not possible to tell which germ someone is infected with based on symptoms alone.
Some children aged under 2 years, especially those with a heart condition or born prematurely, and very young infants, are at increased risk of hospitalisation from RSV.

Spread
Respiratory infections can spread easily between people. Sneezing, coughing, singing and talking may spread respiratory droplets from an infected person to someone close by.
Droplets from the mouth or nose may also contaminate hands, eating and drinking utensils, toys or other items and spread to those who may use or touch them, particularly if they then touch their nose or mouth.

Exclusion
Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.
Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.
If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.
Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

Do

Ensure that any children and young people who have a high temperature and are unwell do not attend the education or childcare setting until they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.
Encourage all children with respiratory symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.
Advise children or young people with a positive COVID-19 test result try to stay at home for 3 days after the day they took their test.
Any staff who have a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home for 5 days after the day they took the test .
Advise all staff and students to follow the 'Living safely with COVID-19' and other respiratory infections guidance.
You should contact your UKHSA HPT if there is:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection
- evidence of severe disease due to respiratory infection, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital

For more information on actions in the event of an outbreak or incident, see chapter 4.

I hope that this helps to keep you abreast of the current national guidelines. Should you have any questions and/or concerns in relation to this guidance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr J Riley