



5/11/20

Dear Parents and Carers

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 Coronavirus, and Face Covering Update

I wanted to update you with the latest situation around confirmed cases of COVID 19 in our school community, and changes to our policy around the wearing of face coverings whilst at school.

Face Coverings

Last night the government published new guidance on the wearing of face coverings in schools. This follows the national lockdown announced on 31 October.

Secondary schools are now required to ask all staff and students to wear a suitable face covering in any indoor communal area, such as corridors, or where social distancing is unable to be carried out. This does not apply when students are in classrooms for lessons.

What this will mean for KEVICC is that we will expect all students and staff to wear face coverings when moving about the site indoors. Students will not have to wear face coverings outside.

If students wish to keep their face coverings on in lessons, they can do so (as they have been able to all year).

Students will be allowed to remove their face coverings to eat and drink indoors, but they must replace the face covering as soon as they have finished.

Some students will be exempt from wearing face coverings. These students may find it easier to have a printed card or note explaining this that they can show to staff. Examples of these, and details on how to make face coverings, are available via the government website at the address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

As wearing face coverings will form an important part of our COVID-19 risk reduction, staff will question students who are not wearing a face covering, but will do this tactfully as we are aware that exempt students may be sensitive for the reasons behind this.

Please ensure your young person has a suitable face covering with them in school from tomorrow. Whilst we will have a small number of face coverings in stock, these will be to help students whose covering is damaged or lost during the school day.

Confirmed Cases

During the holiday period we were made aware of 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19. We followed advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England, and established that neither case had been in school during their infectious period. As a precaution, one class (Y14 Foundation Art) have been working from home this week and will return to the College tomorrow.

Today we have been made aware of another confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our school community. This person was in school earlier this week before they developed symptoms.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the Department for Education. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Students who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their young person must stay at home for 14 days. We are rigorously checking that all close contacts are followed up.

The school remains open to all year groups, and your young person should continue to attend as normal if they remain well and symptom free. At the end of this letter is further guidance on what to do if your young person develops symptoms of COVID-19.

I would like to reassure you that student and staff safety remains our priority. Whilst the new national lockdown and increased spread of the virus will provide challenges, we remain committed to working with you to ensure that our young people get the best possible education in the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in.

As always, your feedback is important and please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions. Parents and carers might like to note we have our next regular online Q and A session 4-5pm next Thursday 12 November. A google meet link will be circulated to all parents and carers on the day.

Thank you again for the support you are showing to your young people, our school and our community at this time.

Yours sincerely



Alan Salt
Principal

What to do if your young person develops symptoms of COVID 19

Please, in the meantime, ensure you remain vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 in your young person. As always, if your young person has any COVID-19 symptoms (either a new continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of or change in sense of taste or smell) they must stay home. This also applies to students who may be self-isolating owing to suspected or confirmed cases within their households. If the above applies to any student at any time then contact our attendance line on 01803 869200 ext 253 or studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk.

If your young person develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble.' The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>