



Hutchinson Memorial C.E. First School

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Hutchinson Memorial C.E. First School

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Important Update from Staffordshire Local Authority

We have been sent an important update from Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education and Richard Harling, Director for Health and Care and been asked to share this with our school communities:

You may have seen in the news recently that Staffordshire will be increasing the testing of residents in a bid to identify more cases of Covid-19 and reduce the spread of infection.

We are also expanding our advice around when to get a test.

Currently anyone who has one of the main symptoms of persistent cough, high temperature, new cough or loss of taste or smell must self-isolate immediately and book a test.

However, with many people displaying other symptoms, we are asking residents in Staffordshire to get a test as a precaution if they have other symptoms such as:

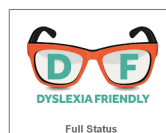
- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sometimes 'tummy ache' in children

*People with any of these symptoms can carry on going to school or work **if they are well enough to do so** and only need to self-isolate if the test comes back positive.*

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We are asking all education providers to communicate this to their parents, as often children with Covid-19 can display different symptoms to adults. We want to ensure as many people as possible get a test, even if it is merely a precaution.

The national testing centres across the county have good availability, and can be booked through the NHS website. People booking a test through this website need to check the 'My council has asked me to get a test' option.

We also have community testing sites that change on a weekly basis. People can view if there are any sites set up near them by visiting our testing website.

Unfortunately, we have positive cases within 7 out of the 8 schools within the Uttoxeter Trust. As the number of cases in Staffordshire continue to rise significantly and are way ahead of the average number in England, it is inevitable that cases within our school communities will continue to increase. These weeks on the run up to Christmas and the weeks after we return immediately after in January, are going to be exceptionally challenging for all schools. I urge the whole of our school community to follow the advice from the Local Authority and the Government.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves and your loved ones.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who are unwell and suffering at this time.

With best wishes,

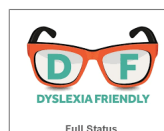
Paula Snee

Headteacher

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