



Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

From the Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral), **David Edwards** BA Hons (Dunelm)

Wednesday 16th September 2020

Covid-19 Advice for Parents

Dear Parents

I hope you are well.

Following a number of enquiries from parents asking for advice about how to respond to their child's symptoms on becoming unwell I thought that it would be useful to write with a reminder of the protocols to follow in the light of Covid-19 or non-Covid-19 symptoms manifesting themselves.

For your reassurance, the following information about symptoms is taken from the [NHS WALES website](#). The aim of the letter is to provide clear advice on what to do if your son or daughter is unwell ahead of what could be quite a busy time of year

The letter is in five parts:

The first part deals with Covid-19 symptoms and what to do.

The second provides some advice on what to do if your son or daughter is feeling unwell but the symptoms are not consistent with those listed below.

The third section outlines what the school aims to do in the event that your son or daughter is away from school because they have tested positive, have symptoms or have been asked to self-isolate by Test, Trace, Protect Wales.

The fourth section deals with the communication that parents can expect in the event of a pupil developing symptoms that may be an indicator of Covid-19 either on the school site or at home.

The final section deals with the school policy for ensuring that pupils can continue to be supported by the academic departments while they are self-isolating.

1 – Covid-19 Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature although a temperature above 37.8 is classed by the NHS as “high”)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. If you believe that your son or daughter has one or more of these symptoms, please do not send them to school and do the following:

- [Get a test](#) to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until the test result comes back – only leave your home to have the test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until the result is known.

This [NHS Wales Symptom Checker](#) is a useful resource and takes you through a step-by-step assessment of symptoms based on your personal situation.

2 – Other illnesses and minor ailments

If your child is feeling unwell at home but is not displaying any of the main symptoms of Covid-19, please keep them home until they are feeling better as you normally would. Please inform their Housemaster (MB) or Head of Year (MG) Form Tutor/Class Teacher (MBP MGP MPP) and confirm that they do not have any Covid-19 symptoms. Please keep the Housemaster / Head of Year updated with their progress. Once your son or daughter is feeling well again, they should return to school. **There is no need for them to self-isolate or take a Covid-19 test if they do not display one of the 3 symptoms above.**

Should your child become unwell for whatever reason while they are at school, they will be taken to the Health and Wellbeing Centre where the medical staff will assess them and offer support and advice as necessary. In the case of MBP and MPP they will be assessed on site and staff will contact you.

I hope that this information is of use to you in assessing your child's health over the coming weeks. If you would like to speak with a member of the medical staff here at school, please call the following numbers 01600 710407 (MB, MBP, MPP) / 01600 711250 (MG, MGP, MPP).

3 – School Absence

Your son or daughter should continue to attend school unless they have:

- tested positive for Covid-19
- have symptoms of Covid-19
- have been asked to self-isolate by Test, Trace, Protect Wales. If this is the case, please inform the school. Teachers at school will provide your son or daughter with school work to enable them to keep pace with their classes once they have been informed of any absence.

4 – Communication

If a student reports one or more of the symptoms that might be an indicator of Covid-19 while on the school site, all parents of the affected year group will receive written notification from the school. Parents will not receive written notification of students who develop these symptoms while at home for example in the case of day-pupils. The only exception to this is if the student tests positive for Covid-19 in which case further guidance will be given.



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5 – Academic Support While Isolating

If your child is self-isolating, they will be contacted by their teachers and given access to materials that will allow them to keep pace with the curriculum. It is expected that teachers, once they have been notified of a pupil's absence, will provide work within 48 hours, if not before.

Please may I request that students do not contact their teachers directly. Instead, if there is an issue they should contact the tutor in the first instance.

Best wishes,

David Edwards
Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral)