



Dear Parents and Carers

**Update (9.11.20) Detected cases of Covid-19 linked to Ellon Academy Community Campus**

In response to a further (3<sup>rd</sup>) detected cases of Covid-19 linked to Ellon Academy Community Campus, the school is supported through the guidance, actions and advice that is given by the Health Protection Team. It is important that we act quickly when we are notified of developments from our colleagues in Health and in this case, that had to be late into yesterday evening (08.11.20). This was a very dynamic and challenging period for the school and we fully acknowledge that, due to this, some aspects of the communication to parents/guardians could have been more refined. These are points that have been fully taken on board and acknowledged. Any confusion that may have been caused was completely unintended and we apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

In light of parent and carer feedback, I write to advise you of the following:

- Due to the nature of Test and Protect working out further details of interaction among people, sometimes this will mean additional close contacts will be identified over time. All additional close contacts identified this morning have been updated.
- The school follows all actions and advice given by the Health Protection Team immediately as and when they are imparted. Situations can develop rapidly, and we react timeously to the information we are given, even when this is received late in the evening and at weekends.
- All parents will receive one standard letter per family to inform them of detected cases and that their child/children are not affected. We appreciate that this will cause concern and the school will fully support, through follow up by our guidance staff.
- You will receive an additional and different letter if your child/children have been identified as a close contact of a detected case of Covid-19. We have now amended this letter, following feedback today, to include the pupils' names and classes to assist in the clarity of which child in the family this directly refers to.
- If your child/children are identified as close contacts, Test and Protect will call you to advise that they must self-isolate for 14 days. The school appreciates that there may be up to a 24-hour delay in this contact process depending on how busy the Test and Protect Team are. We fully appreciate and understand the concern and anxiety this may cause, but again, your child's guidance teacher is there to support if required.
- If your child/children are contacted, they will be able to access schoolwork on Google Classroom during the period of self-isolation at home.
- As per NHS advice and guidance, if pupils and staff have not been identified as a close contact they should come to school as usual and that includes siblings of close contacts.
- As a matter of course, all areas where any detected case has been in school will be subject to additional cleaning.
- Due to the medical confidentiality of detected cases, we ask that parents/carers do not make assumptions or come to conclusions based on rumours which can have an adverse effect on individuals. As I know you will appreciate, the school cannot in any way share confidential information, but please be assured that those directly affected are being fully supported.

I hope that the information above addresses some of your concerns.

Please be assured that we have your children's wellbeing, best interests, and education at the forefront of all decisions made and we are working hard to respond to an ever changing and dynamically challenging situation.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding in these unprecedented times. We want to ensure that we are all as informed as we can be going forward, and that communications are as clear as they can be.

Yours sincerely,

*P Buchan*

Pauline Buchan  
Rector