



19/08/2021

FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN AT ELLON ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter is to advise that we have been made aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within Ellon Academy. The school has multiple mitigation measures in place, including regular testing of staff to limit the onward transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting.

National policy has changed and we are now prioritising contact tracing so that we identify confirmed close contacts in accordance with the revised guidance. These contacts have been called and provided with advice on testing and self-isolation.

If you have been advised by Test and Protect that you have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please follow the guidance they have provided.

There is no requirement for you or your child to self-isolate unless you have been advised to do so by Test & Protect. Any further cases of COVID-19 will be followed up along with their close contacts by NHS Grampian's Health Protection Team along with Test & Protect and provided with appropriate testing and self-isolation advice.

The school remains open in line with Scottish Government guidelines and any further updates will be communicated to the school community. If your child has not been advised to isolate then they can return to school as long as they remain well. **It remains the case that everyone should stay at home and arrange a PCR test** should they develop symptoms of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

What to do if your child has NOT been identified as a close contact

The following information is general information for people who have not been identified as a close contact but where targeted action is required.

Testing

Keep testing regularly, even without symptoms, as this can help keep you and your school community safe by early identification of infection. Everyone in Scotland is encouraged to test twice weekly, and to record all positive, negative or void results on the online reporting portal at

www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19-report-your-test-result

Reporting results helps public health experts understand what is happening with COVID-19 in your area, so they can take early action to address any problems.

Staff members and pupils in secondary school can access free LFD tests from the school. Please contact the school directly if you are having problems accessing tests.

You and the rest of your family (including primary school aged children) can access free

Symptoms of COVID-19

Please be particularly vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19 in the coming weeks. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you develop symptoms you can seek advice from NHS Inform. If anyone in your household develops any symptoms of COVID-19 your child **must not** come to school. The whole household should stay at home, self-isolate, and get a PCR test for COVID-19 (LFD tests are **not** appropriate for symptomatic testing). Information can be found at www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19 or [Translations\(nhsinform.scot\)](http://Translations(nhsinform.scot)) for accessible, easy read formats or other languages.

The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, taste or smell (anosmia).

In the event of a positive result, Test and Protect will contact you to provide tailored advice on what to do.

Booking a test

To get a test if you develop symptoms, you can:

- Book a test at NHS Inform for your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at Gov.Scot.
- Order a home PCR test kit online, or by calling 119. A test will then be delivered to your home. To return you can either drop the test at your nearest priority post box, or if you are unable to go out, you can also call 119 to book a courier collection from your home.

It is important that anyone with one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms gets tested, so that anyone who tests positive knows to continue to stay at home and self-isolate. This will help stop the spread of coronavirus. If you struggle to book a test you can call the testing helpline on 01224 558494.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. **Please do:**

- Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found on NHS inform.

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.
- Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home.
- Be vigilant for COVID symptoms
- Self-isolate when you have COVID symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.

Further information

- <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coronavirus-faq?age=0>
- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>
- <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-testing/general-public-including-children/>
- <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you would like to speak to someone or if you have any questions, please contact us at Ellon Academy.

Yours sincerely
 Mrs P Buchan
 Head Teacher