

Date: Friday 30th October

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public Health England that there have been two additional confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working very closely with Public Health England. Once we were informed that two staff members had tested positive, we immediately contacted Public Health England for advice to determine what action should be taken by the school. Both staff members developed symptoms on Monday 26th October. One of the staff members was last in school on Monday 26th, and the other on Friday 23rd October.

Two staff members identified as close contacts to the positive case on Monday 26th October have been emailed an individual letter advising them to self-isolate for 14 days. No pupils have been identified as close contacts.

Below is a summary of all the positive cases at Arena Academy since we returned in September, and information regarding the recent actions we have taken.

- Year 7 pupil – tested positive 29th September
- Year 11 pupil – tested positive 25th October
- Staff member – tested positive 26th October
- Staff member – tested positive 28th October
- Staff member – tested positive 28th October

There are a total of 43 year 11 pupils who are self-isolating and will be back at school on Monday 2nd November. They were all identified as close contacts of the year 11 pupil.

There are a total of 11 staff members who are self-isolating and will be back at school on Monday 9th November. They were all identified as a close contacts of the staff members.

A thorough enhanced clean has taken place on site and the school will be open as normal to all pupils on Monday 2nd November. As a school, ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and the wider school community has been our absolute priority. As a result, we have closely followed all Government guidance and have implemented all possible safety measures and protocols to ensure everyone's safety and to limit the transmission of any virus.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and 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'. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at->



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homeguidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

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

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this 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 in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Raj Mann", written in a cursive style.

Mr R Mann
Headteacher