

10 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

OMICRON VARIANT

I am writing to inform you that we have been told by Portsmouth City Council of a confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in a Portsmouth maintained school. Portsmouth City Council is working closely with Solent Infant School and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), formerly Public Health England, to identify close contacts and advise on any additional measures to help prevent further spread in the school and wider community.

Omicron is a new variant of coronavirus and early signs indicate that it is very transmissible. UKHSA continue to gather as much data and evidence to understand the new variant and will continue to provide guidance to the public.

Close contacts are identified by NHS Test and Trace and advised of next steps. New guidance says that those identified as a close contact of a possible or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test. This measure applies to all contacts irrespective of age or vaccination status; children also have to self-isolate and book a PCR test if contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

We know that you may find this concerning; we are continuing to monitor the situation closely with UKHSA. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. All the current prevention measures we are asked to follow for COVID-19 remain the best protection to take, so we encourage you to continue following the school and national guidance:

- Hands, face, space, and fresh air
- Test regularly, even if you're not showing symptoms, and remember to report your result
- Get vaccinated when eligible - first dose, second dose, booster, and flu jab
- Spot the symptoms, and do not come into school if symptomatic. Self-isolate and book a PCR test instead.

In line with the latest guidance, The Harbour School remains open. However, we may need to provide remote learning or outreach learning for your child if there are not sufficient staff in school to cover classes. Pupils who are fit and well should

attend school as normal unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate.

Should your child become symptomatic or test positive, please inform your Head of Campus at the earliest opportunity

Bridge and Stamshaw: caroline.burnett@thsportsmouth.org

Cosham: karen.lemieux@thsportsmouth.org

Tipner: lynette.payne@thsportsmouth.org

Vanguard: damon.beasley@thsportsmouth.org

Please do get in touch with your child's key staff member if there is any aspect of this situation you would like to discuss.

Every little action helps to keep your child and the school community safe. For more information about coronavirus, visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk/coronavirus

Kind regards,



Lisa Taylor
Deputy Headteacher, The Harbour School

Further resources:

- Get rapid home test kits: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/community-testing>
- Book your vaccination: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or call 119.
- Latest government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>