

27th November 2020

Dear Stakeholders (Learners, Parents/Carers, Staff, Apprentices and Employers),

Further Confirmed case of COVID-19 – Year 12

Further to our communication earlier today, we have been informed of another confirmed case of COVID-19 among one of our learners. The two cases do not appear to be linked.

The learners who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days.

Unfortunately, this does mean that we need to put in place contingency arrangements due to the number of staff that are now required to self-isolate. As such, from Monday, learners in Years 9 and Year 12 Level 3 will be asked to remain at home and attend online lessons. They should return to site on Friday 11 December. These learners are not required to self-isolate. Learners in Years 11, 13 and 12 Level 2 should continue to attend the college. Learners in Year 10 have already been told to self-isolate via a previous letter.

In addition, due to the SportsDock being used by the University of East London to mass test their students in order that they can go home for Christmas, there will be no sports for Year 11 on Tuesday 01 December and Tuesday 08 December.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What to do if you or someone in your household develops symptoms of COVID 19

If you or someone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to college 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-home-guidance/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 you or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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,



Geoffrey Fowler
Principal & CEO