

## COVID Update II — October 2023

### **COVID at EPS**

It has been a challenging week in school. We started the week with 5 full-time staff off ill.

By the end of the week we still have 3 members of staff off ill. Hopefully, by Monday we will be fully staffed again. School will have felt different!

Supply staff were hard to find for two reasons. Firstly, some of them were ill themselves and secondly some, understandably, did not want to come into a school with COVID cases.

With some reallocation of staff, we were able to keep the school safely open for all pupils, all week. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and also to parents.

We were able to curb the spread of COVID quite quickly by putting into place the practices we are now familiar with:-

- ⇒ Increased ventilation, reduced mixing,
- ⇒ Strong cleaning regime including regular 'fogging' of classrooms
- ⇒ Improved hygiene such as regular washing of hands,
- ⇒ Parents keeping unwell children at home
- ⇒ We are keeping the well-established and understood routines of walking around the site in place. Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 to walk into school independently from the Lansdowne Place where a member of staff is standing. This reduces the number of adults on site and therefore the spread.



Having met with Warwickshire UK Health & Security Agency (UKHSA) representative this week we should expect this to continue over the winter months.

### **Symptoms update**

Latest guidance on COVID can be found here.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

### **Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:-**

- ⇒ a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- ⇒ a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- ⇒ a loss or change to your sense of smell or
- ⇒ an aching body
- ⇒ a headache
- ⇒ a sore throat
- ⇒ a blocked or runny nose
- ⇒ loss of appetite
- ⇒ Diarrhoea—48 hours before return to school

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The guidance states that :

“Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.”

To reduce spread and keep the school open, we ask if your child has shows COVID-19 symptoms, they should not return to school for 3 clear days after the day their symptoms started. They can return to school on day 4 if they are well enough and do not have a temperature.

We thank you for all your support to date and, ask that you remain vigilant and support us in keeping your child at home if they are unwell to reduce the risk of passing infection on to others.

If you are ever unsure, do not hesitate to get in touch and we will support where we can.

Thank you