

Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology
Priory Villa, 3 Ednam Road, Dudley, West
Midlands, DY1 1HL

Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams

Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



Jo Higgins, Chief Executive

Email: jo.higgins@dudleycol.ac.uk

Phone: 01384 363140

04/02/21

Dear Parents and Carers

Expansion of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Testing

As you are aware, individuals who have any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, new, continuous cough, loss or change of taste or sense of smell) must self-isolate (stay at home) immediately and book a Covid-19 test.

However, there are also a number of other, wider symptoms (see table below), which may be linked to Covid-19 infection, although these symptoms are also common in a number of other illnesses.

Dudley Council's Public Health team and the academy are keen to make sure we are doing all we can to prevent any further cases and are therefore **recommending that all children and staff in education settings get a Covid-19 test as a precaution if they display any of these wider symptoms.** Details of how to book a test are included below.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Loss of Appetite | Sore Throat |
| Extreme Tiredness | Sneezing |
| Headaches | *Diarrhoea (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to the academy) |
| Joint Pain or Muscle Ache | **Vomiting (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to the academy) |
| Nausea | Runny Nose or Congestion |

Please note that:

- If your child has any of these wider symptoms (apart from diarrhoea* and vomiting**) they can carry on attending their education setting if they are well



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enough to do so and are not already self-isolating due to being a contact of a positive case.

- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they should not get tested for wider symptoms. However, they must self-isolate and seek a new test if they display any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms.
- If the test result is positive your child and your household must self-isolate for 10 days from their symptom onset date.
- If your child is currently self-isolating as a contact and the test result is negative, they must still continue their 10-day isolation period.
- If the test result is negative but your child then develops a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of taste or sense of smell they (and your household) must self-isolate and you must arrange another test for your child.

The Council's Public Health Team believes that this approach will help reduce transmission in the academy and help maintain your child's education.

The national testing centres across the borough have good availability and tests can be booked through the [NHS website](#) or NHS Test & Trace App. When booking a test, you will need to select *"My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms"*, if your child does not have one of the three main symptoms. For further information on how to book a test, please see the attached guidance.

Please remember that even if your child tests negative now, should they develop a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of taste or sense of smell the household must self-isolate and your child will need to be retested. If your child tests positive, they must isolate for 10 days and your household must also isolate for 10 days.

We hope you understand that this new measure is important to keep your family, the academy and your local community safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dhami
Principal



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