



CV19 FAQs

12th November 2020

Public Health England have confirmed a case of coronavirus in the academy. Below are some answers to frequently asked questions.

How many cases of Coronavirus have been confirmed?

Only one case has been confirmed and it is highly likely the source came from outside the school. The infected person will now self-isolate and, as a precaution, 5 students will be asked to self-isolate. No members of staff need to self-isolate on this occasion.

Which year group is affected?

The case is in Year 11 and is contained within Year 11.

Have the classrooms been cleaned?

We know that the virus can possibly hang around on surfaces for up to 72 hours so Year 11 classrooms, toilets and regular touch points will be cleaned again on 12th November 2020. This is in addition to the thorough cleaning that already happens in school.

Why isn't the academy closing?

At this stage, we only have a single case within this bubble and we have been able to identify all the contacts that person had very quickly; they will all self-isolate for 14 days as a precaution. The advice is to open the school as planned with all the systems of control in place such as hand washing, good respiratory hygiene, enhanced cleaning and protected groups. We will also continue to ask all visitors inside school to wear a face covering.

How do I know if I came into contact with the infected person?

As we keep a record of what contacts are made we know who came into contact with the infected person and have notified those who need to self-isolate as a precaution.

Why are there up to 30 students in a class?

School classes will return to normal, which for us will be up to 30 students per class. We would not be able to have classes of 15 and have everybody back full time. The government guidance is clear that schools are not allowed to have part-time provision or a rota in place, and that students are able to sit next to each other in lessons.

If we have been in contact with a parent/child that has been asked to self-isolate by the school, are we also required to self-isolate and then track those we have subsequently had contact with also?

No, the advice to self-isolate from PHE is only for those who had direct contact. If you develop symptoms then you should self-isolate along with your household and let us know.

Is it safe for students to go to school?

The person infected only had contact with a few students outside of the school setting, and they will be self-isolating at home. There is no reason at this stage to suggest any other children or year groups are affected.

Will it be better to keep the children home a bit longer until this episode is over?

Due to the systems in place we have been able to quickly identify those who came into contact with the infected person, and have been advised that it is safe for school to be open – only those students asked to self-isolate need not attend.

If the people that have been asked to self-isolate get tested and it comes back negative, are they allowed back into school before the 14 days is up?

No. Students have to isolate for the full period requested if asked to do so and testing is only required if students develop symptoms.

Can you confirm more details of the infected person?

As you might expect I am not able to release any further details of the person in respect to their privacy. As explained above we know who this person was in contact with and they have been informed and will self-isolate.

I want to keep my daughter at home, can I do this?

We can understand your concerns and we wouldn't open the school if we didn't feel that situation was contained. You will be aware that the government has announced that all students should return to school and continue their education.

When my youngest son was in contact with someone who has COVID-19, do I place my whole family into self-isolation?

The guidance is that it is just your youngest son, unless he develops symptoms, in which case your household should self-isolate for 14 days.

Can children wear masks in school and in classrooms to prevent it?

In accordance with the current national lockdown, the academy policy on face coverings has been updated so that face masks are compulsory in all internal social/communal areas. A few children are wearing a face covering in classrooms and that is ok if they can take responsibility for wearing it, and using it correctly. However, the government guidance is that students currently do not need to wear them in classes, as there are other measures in place.

My children were told to self-isolate by the school and PHE. How will their free school meals be reimbursed?

In the government guidance schools have been told that they need to provide either a meal or a food parcel for free school meals pupils if they are isolating. We are in touch with the catering company who will provide these and we will be in touch to discuss further. The voucher scheme has now ended.

What happens if I don't send my child in?

We will be in touch to have a conversation and discuss your concerns. 92.4% of students are now back at school and unless your child is self-isolating, then they should be attending school. We haven't used fines in these circumstances yet at Ormiston Denes Academy because we have good relationships with our families and hope that through discussion we can encourage students back to school. However it is in the guidance from the government.