

### **Procedure for Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 at WMG Academy**

The following process will be followed at WMG Academy Trust in the event of a confirmed case of coronavirus.

#### **Symptomatic – confirmed through PCR tests**

When a student or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home with advice to self-isolate for 10 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19.

Tests can be arranged through the website [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 10 days. All staff and students who are attending WMG Academy will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

When a student or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

#### **Asymptomatic – confirmed through Lateral Flow Device tests**

Where a student or member of staff tests positive through a lateral flow device test, this result will be taken as accurate and there is no need for a confirmatory PCR test. The same response will be followed for both symptomatic and asymptomatic confirmed cases. Please note, this is a temporary measure announced by the Department for Education in response to exceptionally high rates of transmission and this may be reviewed in due course.

#### **Response**

Where the student or staff member tests positive, the Academy will contact the relevant local authority's Public Health team. Close contacts of the individual will be identified and asked to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of the identified close contacts do not need to self-isolate unless the student or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Although advice will be sought from local Public Health experts in the event of any confirmed case, it will remain the decision of the Academy's Senior Leadership Team as whether to close the Academy to any staff and students and switch to remote learning. This decision will be made in line with recent and relevant UK Government guidance and specific advice from local experts.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

In the event of a series of linked confirmed cases within a short period of time (5 or more), hospitalisation, death or a case related emergency or serious issues, the senior leadership team will seek prompt advice from PHE. The definition of a linked case is where a close contact of a confirmed case subsequently tests positive themselves.

**Kate Tague**  
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