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10th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

OMICRON VARIANT

We are writing to inform you that we have been told by Portsmouth City Council of a confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in a Portsmouth school. Portsmouth City Council is working closely with Solent Infant School and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), formerly Public Health England, to identify close contacts and advise on any additional measures to help prevent further spread in the school and wider community. We are very aware that this school is extremely local to us so please be vigilant.

Omicron is a new variant of coronavirus and early signs indicate that it is very transmissible. UKHSA continue to gather as much data and evidence to understand the new variant and will continue to provide guidance to the public.

Close contacts are identified by NHS Test and Trace and advised of next steps. New guidance says that those identified as a close contact of a possible or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test. This measure applies to all contacts irrespective of age or vaccination status; children also have to self-isolate and book a PCR test if contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

We know that you may find this concerning; we are continuing to monitor the situation closely with UKHSA. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. All the current prevention measures we are asked to follow for COVID-19 remain the best protection to take, so we encourage you to continue following the school and national guidance:

- Hands, face, space, and fresh air
- Test regularly, even if you're not showing symptoms, and remember to report your result
- Get vaccinated when eligible - first dose, second dose, booster, and flu jab
- Spot the symptoms, and do not come into school if symptomatic. Self-isolate and book a PCR test instead.

Our schools remains open for all pupils; all pupils who are fit and well should attend school as normal unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate.

Should your child become symptomatic or test positive, please inform the relevant school office at the earliest opportunity inbox@courtlaneinf.co.uk or admin@courtlanejnr.co.uk

Every little action helps to keep your child and the school community safe. For more information about coronavirus, visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk/coronavirus

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Flitton Mrs Geddes

Further resources:

- Get rapid home test kits: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/community-testing>
- Book your vaccination: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or call 119.
 - Latest government guidance: -
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>