

**Headteacher**

Sebastian Gray

Email

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Tel

01923 233146

Twitter

@LHS_Watford

AddressVicarage Road
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD18 0DD**Web**

www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Facebook

Laurance Haines School

Wednesday, 20 January 2021

Confirmed cases of coronavirus (Covid-19) in school

Dear Laurance Haines community,

We have been made aware of three staff members who have tested positive for COVID 19. One of the staff members with a positive test result is Mr Gray, whose role means that he works across the school. The other is a staff member who works in the Year 6 bubble. These cases are unrelated as both adults have had no contact with each other. Our robust risk assessments means that a small number of staff and children have been identified as close contacts and therefore are advised to self-isolate for a period 10 days. You will already have received this letter if this relates to you or your child.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. We have contacted the dedicated helpline introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. The helpline's team conducted a rapid investigation to confirm who the individual may have been in close contact with.

If your child is currently in school, it remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

"For a better future"

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

There are currently a few cases in the school, all of which you have been made aware of. If any further cases of coronavirus are confirmed, the school will continue their work with Public Health England to ensure the appropriate actions are taken. This may include more pupils and staff being sent home to self-isolate. You will be kept fully informed of any developments.

This is yet another timely reminder for us all to remain vigilant and follow the guidelines set out by the Government. Please remember that the safest place for your child is at home, so only send them to schools if it is absolutely critical. We will continue to review our risk assessments in order to keep our children, staff and families as safe as we can during these challenging times. I am sure you will all join me in wishing the staff and children currently suffering with coronavirus a safe and speedy recovery.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Jo Ball

Assistant Headteacher

“For a better future”