

22 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update Regarding Student Illness

I do hope that your son/daughter/ward has had a successful start to the new school year and is enjoying being back. Despite the many procedural changes that have been implemented, we are all enjoying the chance to be teaching and engaging with our students on site.

This will be the first of a series of communications from school as we continue to cope with the coronavirus and plan for the weeks ahead. I would be very grateful if you would endeavour to read the communications as you receive them.

### Dealing with Illness

It is clear that as we return to school, students will pick up illnesses which might or might not be COVID-19. The challenge at this time is to act in a way that protects everyone from the spread of the virus but also recognises that a student may have another illness, seasonal or otherwise.

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. The most important symptoms are the recent onset on any of the following symptoms:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss, or change in, the normal sense of taste or smell.

If a student presents with what appears to be any one of the COVID-19 symptoms in school, we will immediately isolate them from other members of the school community until they can be collected and taken home.

We will then ask you to do the following:

1. **Take immediate medical advice** by telephoning the NHS on 111 or by speaking with your GP. They will advise further on the next steps.

At the current time, it is clear that the testing regime is under considerable strain and the government are clear that only people with symptoms should be getting tested. Our recent experience is that by taking medical advice first, this could prevent unnecessary missed school time and inconvenience for other family members.

2. If your son/daughter/ward needs to get tested, please do this quickly via the NHS testing website link [here](#). It is difficult to get a booking, but if you can get to Twickenham Rugby Stadium, staff there are seemingly advising people on how to get tested. If a test is required, make sure everyone in your household follows the guidance [here](#). A flowchart, which might also be of assistance, is on the school website [here](#).

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3. Finally, **please keep us informed** at each step so that we can plan for a return to school. This is best done via the Parent App or emailing us at [school@isleworthsyon.org](mailto:school@isleworthsyon.org).

If your child becomes ill at home, we would also recommend that you follow the steps above.

Please do remember the measures that you can take to stop the spread of the virus:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often, and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Wash your hands as soon as you arrive at your destinations (school or 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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Euan Ferguson**  
Headteacher

