



Mountain Ash Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar

New Road, Mountain Ash, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF45 4DG

Tel: 01443 479199
Fax: 01443 473412
www.macs.uk.net

S J Evans BA, MA
Headteacher

Our Ref: SJE/ja

Date: 7 December 2020

Please ask for: Mrs S J Evans

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Council's Contact Tracing Service (or Public Health Wales) have advised us that there has been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school in Year 9.

We have undertaken a thorough investigation at school today and following Public Health Wales and Local Authority guidance, as a precautionary measure, a number of close contacts have been asked by the school to self-isolate pending further investigations by contact tracers. Once the Council's Contact Tracing Service has identified confirmed close contacts, they will be required to self-isolate for a 14-day period since the day of last contact with the confirmed case. This period of self-isolation is needed as it can take up to 14 days for the symptoms to develop.

The process of testing and contact tracing is part of the new normal where schools and settings are required to follow the guidelines carefully as part of Welsh Government's Test, Trace, and Protect strategy.

The school remains open for all other pupils in Year 9 and pupils from all other year groups.

Please can I reassure you we will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all guidelines so that we can keep all children and staff safe. The health and safety of everyone in our school community is of paramount importance and we appreciate your full support during these times.

Please find attached further information in relation to how you can stop COVID-19 transmission and what to do if your child develops symptoms.

We are here to provide support and guidance should you require it.

Yours sincerely

S J Evans
Headteacher





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Appendix 1: How to stop COVID-19 spreading

If someone you live with is at high risk of severe illness from coronavirus, you should be particularly careful in implementing the following public health measures:

- Ensuring every member of your household washes their hands with soap and water regularly for 20s (or use hand gel sanitiser) and has good respiratory hygiene.
- Aim to keep 2 metres away from vulnerable people you live with and encourage them to sleep in another bed
- Minimise as much as possible the time any vulnerable family members spend in shared spaces such as kitchens, bathrooms and sitting areas, and keep shared spaces well ventilated.
- If you do share a toilet or bathroom with a vulnerable person, it is important that you clean them every time you use them, wiping surfaces you have come into contact with
- Clean and disinfect household surfaces regularly, especially 'high touch' surfaces
- Avoid sharing towels with the vulnerable household member

Please also remember general public health measures to reduce the risk of infection in our community by:

- Staying at home as much as possible.
- Staying safe outside your home, including by maintaining social distancing (at least 2 metres) when near people who are not your household members
- Wearing cloth face coverings when in crowded public spaces (e.g. public transport and shops) to protect others.
- Regular hand washing with soap and water regularly for 20s (or use hand gel sanitiser) and good respiratory hygiene.

Appendix 2: What to do if your child develops symptoms

Please be aware of possible symptoms of coronavirus during this period. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- fever (greater than 37.8°C)
- new persistent/continuous cough; and/or
- loss or change in sense of taste or smell.

If anyone in your household develops any of these symptoms, however mild, they need to stay at home (10 days for the person with symptoms and 14 days for the rest of the household) and must follow the guidance; <https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus>

