

**Headteacher**

Cheska Tyler

**Email**

admin@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk

**Tel**

01923 245490

**Twitter**

@CTS\_Watford

**Address**Berry Avenue  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD24 6ST**Web**

www.cherrytree.herts.sch.uk

**Facebook**

Cherry Tree Primary School

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## Confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school

Dear Parents,

I know that many of you are concerned because we have Year 2, Year 3 and some members of staff now self-isolating following positive PCR tests. Additionally, we have had a small number of Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) showing positive results in Year 3, these children are seeking a PCR test. I want to reassure you that I have taken all the necessary steps to keep the school community safe. As parents with school aged children, you can access free lateral flow tests to regularly test your children and family should you wish. Please see the information below.

Following the first positive result in Year 3 and then the second in Year 2, I contacted the dedicated helpline introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. The team talked with the infection control nurse who concluded that these are 'controlled outbreaks' at Cherry Tree because they affect two bubbles in the school – Year 2 and Year 3 - and both of these bubbles are self-isolating.

The Government has given clear guidance that it expects all schools to stay open so there is no detrimental impact to children's education. Therefore, the school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well (have no symptoms).

We need to continue to follow the guidance to keep our school community as safe as we can. Thank you for adhering to the steps made in our risk assessment of wearing masks in the playground, only one adults to pick up/drop off children and to not spend unnecessary time on the playground. Please continue to follow the guidance about wearing masks and social distancing to keep yourself and others safe.

### How to access lateral flow tests for your family

#### Accessing test kits

- Collect a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests. [Click here to find a local site where you can collect tests](#)
- Order a home test kit online – but only if testing cannot be access through other routes, as this frees up home delivery for those who need it most [Click here to order lateral flow home test kits](#)

#### Collecting test kits

- Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect.
- You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a [local collection point](#).
- A collection point in Watford is: **King George V Park**, Chaffinch Lane, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD18 9QD [Get Directions](#)
- Opening times 1:30pm – 7:00pm - 7 days a week.
- You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.
- Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

### 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

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

## 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 testing 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

## 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.

Yours sincerely

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