

## **What happens if there is a case of coronavirus at your child's school?**

*Schools have very thorough measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. These measures have worked well and manage to successfully limit the further spread of coronavirus in schools in North Yorkshire.*

*We have put together a guide to show what happens when a case of coronavirus is suspected;*

### **If your child starts to show symptoms of covid 19 whilst they are in school this is what schools will do;**

- ◆ Call you as parents/carers to collect your child and take them home. They will advise you that all household members will need to isolate from that point and that you should book a test for your child.
- ◆ While your child is waiting to be collected they will be in an isolated room with a window open for ventilation. If the school do not have a room for this they will ensure that your child waits in an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
- ◆ Staff caring for your child during this time will try to maintain 2 metre distancing. If this is not possible, for example with a young child, they will wear appropriate PPE – this is likely to be an apron, face mask and gloves.
- ◆ Your child's school will ask you to keep them informed of the test result so that if the result is positive they can take steps to help keep others safe.

### **If there is a positive case of covid 19 in your child's school the following will happen;**

- ◆ The headteacher will notify the national and local public health team.
- ◆ All close contacts of the positive case will be identified and asked to self-isolate – a standard letter from your school will be sent to all close contacts, containing all the information they need to understand what they and their household should do.
- ◆ In some circumstances a school may initially need to ask a larger number of students to self-isolate as a precaution, whilst they work with public health to confirm all of the close contacts. Once this has been confirmed some students may be able to return to school.

## Decisions on identifying close contacts and closing classes/year groups/whole schools;

- ◆ Every case that occurs in schools is different and the headteacher will work closely with public health to make sure they have identified all possible close contacts of a positive case within the guidance given.
- ◆ Because each case is looked at individually, you can be sure that children and staff are not asked to self-isolate without a good reason. The number of people classed as 'close contacts' of a positive case will be different for every case dependent on the activities of the person who has tested positive in the 48 hours prior to symptoms starting.
- ◆ In some circumstances schools may need to close classes, year groups or, in extreme cases, the whole school because of a lack of appropriate staff or other organisational reasons.