

Department of Public Health
NHS Dumfries & Galloway
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To Parents & Guardians of children at Stranraer Academy

Exposure to COVID-19 infection in the local area – FOR INFORMATION

Over the last few weeks we have become aware of more cases of COVID-19 infection in the Stranraer area, including within the school community.

We do not believe that your child has been in close contact with anyone who has the infection, and so at the moment is at no greater risk of developing COVID-19 themselves. However, you should be aware of the greater number of cases of infection locally and be vigilant for signs of possible infection.

For most people, Coronavirus will cause a mild illness, with the most common symptoms being:

- New continuous cough
- A fever or high temperature (above 37.8c)
- A loss of taste or smell

If your child, or anyone in the household, develops symptoms (even if mild) you should arrange testing, and remain in isolation until the result is available.

Public testing is available locally at Ashwood House, Stranraer on Monday and Tuesday each week, and elsewhere in the region throughout the week (details on NHS Website and in local press), and tests can be pre-booked through the www.nhsinform.scot website, or arranged on arrival at the site. Alternatively, it is possible to order a postal kit through the website.

Further help and advice is available through the www.nhsinform.scot website, or by phoning the helpline (0800 22 44 88). If your child develops symptoms, and you are concerned about their well-being, please phone your GP, or 111 out of hours.

You may also talk to the NHS Dumfries & Galloway Contact Tracing Team on 01387 241350 if you have specific questions about possible contact with COVID-19 infection.

Finally, we ask you to avoid posting personal criticism, speculation, and comment on social media. The virus spreads easily, and can affect anyone; personal comments directed at members of the school community can become bullying, and may be very harmful. The school team, along with the Public Health Department are working hard to contain the infection, and appreciate the support given by the wider community in this.

Dr Andrew Rideout
Consultant in Public Health