Dear Parent/Carers

Please find below the key messages which are being shared with your young person during tutorials next week. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with your young person’s personal tutor in the first instance.

This week's Covid messages are aimed at reassuring students of the precautionary measures that are in place across the college group to keep them safe and minimise the risk of infections.

The measures are in line with Public Health England advice and follow the same guidance provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Tutors are asked to talk through the frequently asked questions below in order to clarify current procedures and provide students with an opportunity to discuss what the different situations may mean to them.

This information, along with other FAQs can be found on either of the college websites as below:

[https://www.nelson.ac.uk/news/coronavirus-advice/covid-faqs/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nelson.ac.uk%2Fnews%2Fcoronavirus-advice%2Fcovid-faqs%2F&data=02%7C01%7CDonna.Madden%40NelsonGroup.ac.uk%7C9dc2333e0a1d4a6ab4ae08d86c575529%7Cec8185ce4f05448b828746c0185766e2%7C0%7C0%7C637378469626970944&sdata=aRLEvAWqTEhH2S%2FaIR9wcMFw6f%2B0Lldt2AoBbnfFUCw%3D&reserved=0)

[https://www.accross.ac.uk/news/coronavirus-advice/covid-faqs/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.accross.ac.uk%2Fnews%2Fcoronavirus-advice%2Fcovid-faqs%2F&data=02%7C01%7CDonna.Madden%40NelsonGroup.ac.uk%7C9dc2333e0a1d4a6ab4ae08d86c575529%7Cec8185ce4f05448b828746c0185766e2%7C0%7C0%7C637378469626980912&sdata=l4nfyhhfjIqb90AmxPRlHMloS9q4v%2F5j090yh6b2KVs%3D&reserved=0)

**Student and Parent Communications**

When there is a case of someone in the college community testing positive with Covid, students who have been identified as being in close contact with that person will be sent a text message to make them aware. This text message will advise them to go to their college email where a letter will have been sent with further information or instructions. For some students, this means that they may be required to stay at home and self-isolate for a specified period of time. For other students, this may mean they just need a general awareness and should carry on attending college as normal but inform the college absence line if at any time they start to feel unwell with Covid symptoms (a high temperature, new or continuous cough, loss of sense of taste or smell).

In both cases, where students are under the age of 18 a text will also be sent to the emergency contact they provided at the time of enrolment.

**Who is considered a contact in our college setting?**

A person who maintained appropriate social distancing (over 2 metres) **would not** be classed as a contact.

A contact is defined where someone has been in the company of the positive person within 48 hours of them displaying symptoms and where any one of the following has occurred:

* direct close contact - face-to-face contact (within one metre) including, being coughed on, having a face-to-face conversation, or having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact
* proximity contact - any close contact that is within 1 or 2 meters for more than 15 minutes
* travel contact - travelling in a small vehicle, like a car
* household contact - people who spend significant time in the same household

**What does self -isolation mean?**

Self-isolation means the child/staff member should:

* Not go to college, work or public places
* Not attend any other out of college activities or go around to a friend’s house
* Not use public transport or taxis
* Not go out to shop – order it online or ask a friend to bring it to your home
* Not have visitors in your home except for people providing essential care
* Not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one
* Inform GP practice or hospital or other healthcare setting that you are self-isolating if they must attend in person

**How long does self-isolation last?**

If a student has a confirmed positive case, they must not leave home for **10** days from the onset of symptoms or the date of test if they have no symptoms.

If a student has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case they must not leave home for **14** days from the date they last had contact with the case

**Prevention**

To prevent the spread of Covid-19 students should:

* Minimise contact with others who are unwell by ensuring that those who have symptoms, or who have someone in the household who does, do not attend college and inform the absence line.
* Follow ***Hands, Face and Space***advice, which includes cleaning hands thoroughly and more often than usual, wearing face masks (unless exempt) and minimise contact by maintaining social distancing of 2 meters or more with other individuals whenever possible.

**Response to positive Covid cases**

In the event of a positive case at college, we respond as quickly as possible to ensure any identified students and/or staff are contacted with a notification to self-isolate. The self-isolation period is 14 days from the point of contact. Depending on the onset of symptoms, the speed in which a test is taken and when results are received, sometimes by the time we are notified of a case it could be up to 5 or days from the point of contact. This is why if your young person is asked to self-isolate it will be for a shorter period of time.

Kind Regards

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**Fionnuala Swann**

Assistant Principal Academic Curriculum and Centre Principal for Nelson

**Nelson and Colne College Group**

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