

LKI/AM

13 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carer

**Re: UTC Derby Pride Park staff capacity issues and the request for Y9 students to work from home from Tuesday 14 December 2021**

Unfortunately, at present due to illness and the need for Covid-19 isolation, the UTC has 25% of its teaching staff off work during this week. This means to ensure effective health and safety, delivery of learning and supervision around the UTC for the rest of the week, we have taken the difficult decision to request that **all Y9 students work from home from Tuesday 14 December for the remainder of the week up to the Christmas break.**

Work will be provided for the week in key subjects for students in Y9 as per the following:

- Maths- Work set on Hegarty Maths, the same as usual homework tasks.
- English- Work set on Microsoft Teams.
- Science- Work set on E-Revision, the same as usual homework tasks.
- Options- Staff will set work on Microsoft Teams where appropriate.

Any student in Y9 who still needs to attend at the UTC, will be contacted by the inclusion team to make suitable arrangements. **All other year groups should attend the UTC as normal.** Any questions relating to this arrangement please contact reception at 01332 477400.

If you receive free school meals, food parcels to cover the remainder of this week have been ordered via Taylor Shaw. As soon as they arrive, we will be in contact to arrange collection.

The UTC setting remains open and if your child is in Y10, Y11 or Post-16, your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

We have been advised by UKHSA that there has been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the UTC setting.

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We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are providing the following advice. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

### **Safeguarding and Support Lines**

Safeguarding email address: [Safeguarding@utcderby.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@utcderby.org.uk)

Domestic Abuse email address: [DomesticAbuse@utcderby.org.uk](mailto:DomesticAbuse@utcderby.org.uk)

Food banks:

- Hope Centre, 18 Curzon Street, Derby
- Derby City Mission, 32 Quarn Drive, Derby
- Derby City Mission, Charnwood Street, Derby

Online safety for children/young people: [www.nspcc.org.uk.keeping-children-safe/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk.keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

Mental Health:

Young Minds: text YM to 85258

Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) Call 0800 1111

Samaritans: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) Call 116 123

Kooth: [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

Public Health England have also **recommended that staff and students should wear masks both in communal areas and now also in classrooms from the week beginning Monday 13 December 2021.**

If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace then they should take a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) or by calling 119. **When ordering a PCR test it is important to check the box (online) or tell 119 ‘I’ve been told to get a test by my health protection team’ *and not* ‘I’ve been told to get a test by my school or nursery’.** Further guidance can be found at [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19**

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child has a positive test result but does not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) or by calling 119.

**Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)**

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

**Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.** Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school/college/childcare/education setting 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.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not. **Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August 2021.**

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in [regular LFD testing](#)

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

**Further Information**

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LK', written in a cursive style.

**Lee Kirkwood**  
**Associate Principal**