



15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Advice for Parents Isolating with Covid-19 (suspected or confirmed cases)**

At Garfield, we recognize that we are living in difficult and challenging times.

Although during our first week we had very high attendance, we are already seeing (like many schools across the country) an increase in pupil absence.

This is to be expected with many of our children returning to school after a long absence and when we are coming towards the months when colds and flu are more prevalent.

As some of the symptoms of colds and flu are similar to Covid-19, this presents a challenge to both parents and schools.

As a school, although we will always encourage good attendance, the safety of everyone in our school community is our number-one priority.

Therefore, it is important to stress that if your child is unwell you need to keep them at home and ring the school office as soon as possible to explain why they absent.

The school is not able to diagnose illness and we may ask you to seek medical advice before deciding on the next step.

This could result in you being asked to get a Covid-19 test for your child or another member of your household with symptoms.

We understand that getting a Covid-19 test is very difficult at the moment.

Attached to this email is an email from Enfield Council giving details of the testing centres and how to apply for a test.

The school will ask, on some occasions, that some parents keep children at home to isolate.

All children who are isolating, but not unwell, will receive a printed workpack to complete, either collected or be sent out from the school office.

If a test has been carried out, the school needs to see evidence of the test result either brought to the office or as a screenshot. This will be treated confidentially by school staff.

We are writing this letter to make clear when the school will ask children to stay at home and isolate because of Covid-19.

Upper Park Road New Southgate London N11 1BH

**T:** 020 8368 4500 **F:** 020 8361 8232 **E:** [office@garfield.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:office@garfield.enfield.sch.uk)

**[www.garfield.enfield.sch.uk](http://www.garfield.enfield.sch.uk)**



**Garfield Primary**  
Today's children, tomorrow's future.

### **Covid-19 Symptoms**

There are three main symptoms of Covid-19:

- Temperature/fever above 37.8°C
- Continuous cough – coughing repeatedly for a long period of time such as one hour
- Loss of smell or taste

Other symptoms sometimes present are:

- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Tiredness and aches / pains
- Headaches
- Sore throat
- Blocked/runny nose is very rarely a symptom – sneezing is definitely **NOT** a symptom of Covid-19

### **What should I do if my child is unwell?**

- If your child is unwell, please keep them at home.
- As soon as possible, ring the school office (phones will be answered from 8am-5pm daily) to explain why your child is off school.
- The school staff may ask you to book a test or they may suggest ringing NHS111 or your GP to get medical advice about whether a test is needed.
- If you are advised to book a test, please do so, although we recognize that this is very difficult at the moment.

### **When can my child return to school?**

- If the GP or NHS111 say that this is **not** Covid-19 and no test is needed – the parent needs to tell the school office about what NHS111 or the GP said, **before** the child comes in to school the next day.
- After the negative test result – evidence such as a screen shot must be shown to the school office.
- If you are unable to book a test or do not get your child tested, the child must isolate for 10 days from the first symptom – the 10 day isolation period must be followed, even if the child is better and has no further symptoms.

### **What should I do if someone in my child's household is unwell with suspected or confirmed Covid-19?**

- Keep your child at home.
- Ring the school office to explain why your child is at home.
- Book a test for the suspected Covid-19 case.
- If the test is negative, the child can return to school – the school needs to see evidence of the test result
- If the test is positive or if no test can be booked the child needs to isolate for 14 days.
- If the child gets symptoms, they should get a test and isolate from 10 days after the symptoms appear.

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The school may also ask parents to isolate their child if they have had contact with a confirmed case in their school bubble.

If there is a confirmed case at the school we will inform all parents straight away.

We appreciate your support at this difficult time.

Many thanks

*David Newson*

David Newson (Assistant Head Teacher)

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