



**Breakspeare School**  
Gallows Hill Lane  
Abbots Langley  
Hertfordshire  
WD5 0BU

**Tel:** 01923 263645  
**Fax:** 01923 260087

**Meadow Wood School**  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bushey  
Hertfordshire  
WD23 4NN

**Tel:** 020 8 4204720  
**Fax:** 020 8 4205497

admin@breakspeare.herts.sch.uk admin@meadowwood.herts.sch.uk

5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of Staff,

In light of the positive COVID-19 diagnosis of one of our students at Breakspeare from last week, I would like to draw everyone's attention to a couple reminders to maximise safety within our community.

1. ARRANGE A TEST WHEN SHOWING SYMPTOMS

- If anyone within the school community including parents/carers/staff members or any of their family members presents with COVID-19 symptoms (continuous cough, temperature, and loss of normal taste/smell) it is of paramount importance to arrange a COVID test. Please note that children or young people may not present fully with the symptoms described above.
- This test must be PCR test; analysed in a laboratory
- Test can be organised via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
- NOTE: We have a limited number of these tests in both of our schools; we are very happy to provide you /your child with a PCR test kit to speed up the process to get tested and to receive a test result when showing COVID-19 symptoms
- PCR tests organised by NHS are free of charge.

2. SELF-ISOLATE

- Please follow the given guidance to self-isolate after being in contact with somebody who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or being diagnosed with C-19
- Inform school about your/ your family situation as soon as possible, so that we can proceed with necessary risk-assessments etc..

3. RAPID LATERAL FLOW TEST

- Rapid lateral test can identify COVID-19 when a person does not have any symptoms yet
- All household members in the UK are encouraged to carry out biweekly lateral flow testing at home (NOT for primary age children or younger)
- Tests can be ordered via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or picked up for example from many local pharmacists
- Test kits are free of charge
- Staff and our secondary students are provided with their rapid lateral test kits by the school/s. Our staff and secondary age students' families, must inform the school with the results of their rapid test twice per week.

4. GENERAL COVID-19 TRANSMISSION CONTROL MEASURES

- We must continue to follow DfE and PH guidance with regard to excellent hand hygiene, social distancing, wearing masks and keeping spaces well ventilated as long as the government advises for something different.

In both of our schools we have students who have complex medical conditions and compromised immunity to fight off any infections. Not all members of our staff have been able to take vaccinations for example because being pregnant. We also know that although not likely, it is possible that a person who has been vaccinated, may get COVID-19.

**Therefore, we all need to continue to work together and to follow the guidance above; this is to maximise everyone's safety and to be able to avoid possible school closures.**

Lastly, I would like to mention that the mother whose child was diagnosed with COVID-19 last week at Breakspeare, acted promptly following the government guidance keeping the school informed at every step. Thank you very much for this as her actions ensured that there was no need for the class closure.

We wish a speedy recovery for both of her daughters.

Merja

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

