



18th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Cumbria County Council are now advising that schools inform parents if anyone within their child's bubble has suspected symptoms of Covid 19 and who may then be going for a test. Moving forward, it has been agreed by all the Maryport Town Schools that we will send out a text message to inform parents of this. Individuals will not be named and specific details of their symptoms will not be shared.

The text message will read:

Someone in your child's bubble has suspected Covid symptoms. You do not need to isolate at the moment. We will contact you again if their test comes back positive.

This does not however mean that other children within the bubble are required to stay off school, isolate or get tested, it is just to ensure that all parents are kept informed. Schools will only get back in touch if the test comes back positive. If that is the case, we will take advice from Cumbria Public Health who may advise that the bubble need to isolate. If you do not hear from us, then the test results are negative.

The symptoms of Covid 19 which mean a child must isolate for 14 days, or until a test comes back negative, are –

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Please note that a sore throat/runny nose/occasional cough are not usual symptoms of Covid 19 but you know your children best so please seek medical advice if you are concerned about any symptoms.