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Beechfield School

Thursday, 10 September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

## COVID-19 UPDATE

When we return to school in the autumn term we often see an increase in colds and other illnesses. In the current climate it is obviously difficult to distinguish between these common illnesses and Coronavirus. It is also difficult to know whether or not to keep your child off school and whether you should take your child for a test.

Please read the information below to help inform your decision about sending your child into school, and whether or not you should arrange a test.

Here is a summary of what you need to know and a flow chart to help you make your decision quickly and accurately:

### Step 1: Check for symptoms of coronavirus (there may be one or more symptoms)

- A high temperature
- A new cough where you keep on coughing. This means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more episodes of coughing in a day
- Losing, or there being a change to, your sense of smell or taste

### Step 2: Check with the NHS 111 service

To receive medical advice about your symptoms, use the NHS 111 online service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> or NHS 111 phone line.

### Step 3: Phone your GP

Phone your GP to arrange a phone or video call to discuss your child's symptoms.

### Step 4: Arrange a possible test

To arrange a test for your child, call 119. They will run through a series of questions to ascertain whether or not your child needs to be tested. There is a high volume of calls at the moment so you will need to be persistent and possibly be prepared to travel in order to receive the test. However, it is essential that your child/you are tested.

Finally, I hope that the suggested steps above will help you over the coming weeks. If your child is too unwell to come to school with an illness that is not related to the coronavirus, please keep them off for at least 24 hours until they are well enough to return.

If you wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please speak to a member of the school office team.

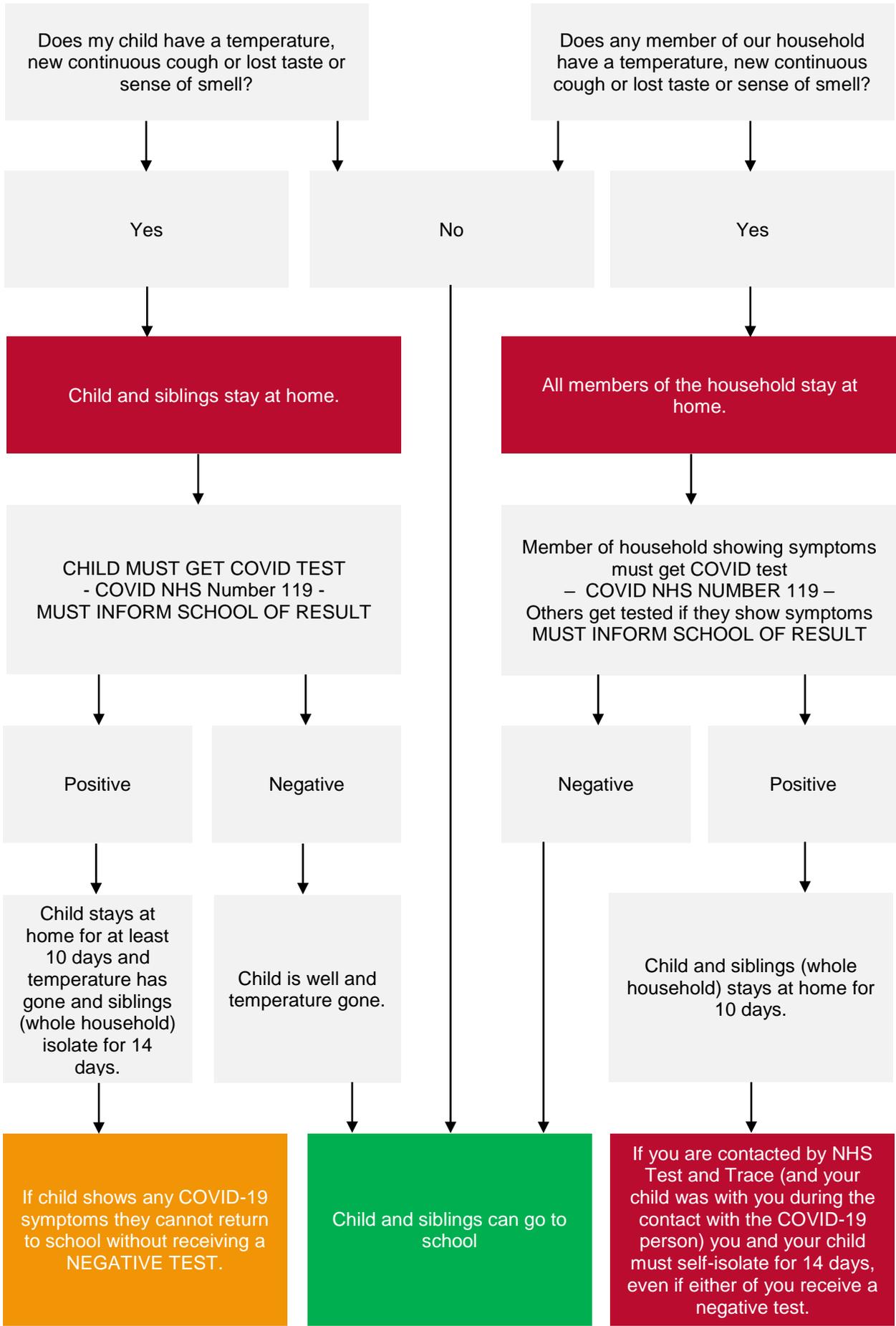
Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jackson  
**Headteacher**

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*"Be Kind, Work Hard, Love Learning"*

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