



# Perschore High School

Quality education  
for all in a  
challenging,  
supportive and  
safe environment



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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that as of this morning we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the staff. The member of staff is our Chemistry PGCE student Miss Kirchhof. In addition, we have two teachers self-isolating with symptoms.

I have been in contact with Public Health England and their advice is that the school should not close and nor is there the need for anyone to self-isolate unless they start to display the symptoms of the virus. Miss Kirchhof was last in school on Friday and developed symptoms over the weekend. Public Health England have told me that there is no need to deep clean any areas of the school since it is more than 72 hours since there has been any potential contamination. We have, as you know, upgraded our cleaning, paying particular attention to hard surfaces.

I have today received an update on the advice for those who are in high risk categories and it is recommended that anyone in the affected groups should self-isolate. Those with underlying health conditions who are at particular risk include:

**From Gov.uk:**

**Underlying Health Conditions**

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions);
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
  - chronic kidney disease
  - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
  - diabetes
  - problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
  - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
  - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant.

Please note there are some clinical conditions which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. **If you are in this category, next week the NHS in England will directly contact you with advice on the more stringent measures you should take in order to keep yourself and others safe.** For now, you should rigorously follow the social distancing advice in full, outlined below.

People falling into this group are those who may be at particular risk due to complex health problems such as:

- *people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication;*
- *people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy;*
- *people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment;*
- *people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets);*
- *people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis).*

*For the latest guidance on social distancing please visit:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>.

As a school we are doing our best to remain open but this is becoming increasingly difficult as a significant number of staff have to self-isolate due to their own or family members' health conditions. We may very soon have to partially close in order to ensure that we can cover classes and keep students safe; if we have to do this we will prioritise those in years 11, 13, 12 and 10 who have public exams scheduled for the summer. I will keep you informed of any developments, locally or at national level, as I receive them.

Best wishes



Phil Hanson  
Headteacher