

6th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update

Staff and parents at Samuel Ward Academy have heard this evening from the headteacher to say that five staff have tested positive for covid-19. On the advice of Public Health England, the school will be closed tomorrow as a precautionary measure to ensure all those who were in sufficiently close contact with any of the five staff are informed of the need to self-isolate for 14 days.

The headteacher has contacted parents whose children were in classes where these staff worked last week. These children should self-isolate for 14 days. This means they should not leave the house. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate unless the child or any other member of the family have symptoms.

Samuel Ward Academy has had excellent support from Public Health England and Suffolk County Council. There was a high-level meeting today to ensure the correct response to the issue. The decision to close the school was only made today following notification of the positive tests and the meeting today with the local authority and Public Health England.

Some of you will know families who have children at Samuel Ward Academy. Anyone who should self-isolate will be informed. Unless a child has symptoms possibly associated with the virus or has been told to self-isolate, children should come to school.

We are taking great care to make school as safe as possible. We plan to get children in far more quickly in the morning and will share our revised drop and pick up arrangement with you when they are finalised. I respectfully request that all parents/carers wear a face covering when dropping off/collecting children from school. I will update the Risk Assessment and share this tomorrow with you, where additional measures for staff will be included.

Testing facilities are available to those with symptoms. Tests are not advised or available for those without symptoms. If you or your child need a test, please see the online testing information at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>



[Get a free NHS test today to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/)

Anyone with coronavirus symptoms can get a test. Coronavirus symptoms are: a high temperature a new, continuous cough a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste You can get a test for someone you live with if they have these symptoms. Do not get tests for people you live with who do not have ...

www.nhs.uk

or call 119.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sendall
Headteacher