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Dear Parents and Carers

Please see the information below, which I received today as guidance for parents from the NHS. It may help in distinguishing colds from Coronavirus.

Coronavirus in children – symptoms and testing

As we approach winter and more children are attending school and early years settings there is likely to be an increase in the number of children experiencing mild respiratory symptoms such as runny noses and colds. Children with these symptoms do not require self-isolation or testing for them or the wider family.

The three main symptoms of coronavirus in children 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

If any child attending school or an early years setting displays these symptoms, then it is very important that they are asked to go home, self-isolate with their family and get a test. They cannot return until they receive a negative test.

Best wishes

Wendy Turner









