



Ryders Green Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss L Blackmore
♦ Ba (Hons) ♦ QTS ♦ Pg Cert ♦ AST

Our Ref: LB/eb-Important information from Public Health

Date:

20th May 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian/ Carer/ Student

Re: Confirmed case of COVID-19

We have been informed by Public Health England that there have been cases of the new Indian Variant of COVID linked to the school. These cases were several weeks ago and all appropriate measures were taken at the time. However as part of the increased surveillance for this new strain, PHE, Sandwell Public Health and the school have agreed to test all pupils in years 4 and 5 on Friday 21st May 2021.

We have been made aware the school linked cases have had no travel history to India.

There is no evidence to suggest this variant causes more severe illness but it appears to be more easily spread than other variants currently circulating in the UK, therefore, we want to find out whether it has spread in our communities.

We will continue to work with Public Health England (PHE) and the public health team at Sandwell Council on this matter. The reason we are asking Year 4 & Year 5 classes and teachers to be swabbed is because they have had closer contact with the school linked cases. **You are not amongst this group at this stage.** Results of the swabbing will be reviewed and further action will be taken if required.

There is no other action for you to take at this time if you do not have any symptoms.

If you have symptoms please access testing through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-or-by-calling-119>.