

30.11.20
Ballymena Academy
89 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1AJ

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ballymena Academy community

The Public Health Agency has been notified of a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Ballymena Academy community. The Public Health Agency has worked closely with the school principal to review all the cases and undertake a risk assessment in the school. All those who were in close contact with any of the cases in the school have been identified and advised to self-isolate.

We are satisfied that the actions taken mean the ongoing risk of further cases has been reduced and at this stage no further action is required. The school is able to continue to operate safely. We will keep the situation under review and will be in regular contact with the school.

As you are aware COVID-19 is present in the community across Northern Ireland. Whether in school or outside it is very important that we all remember the things we can do to help reduce the risk of spreading the infection including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Keep to date with and follow the COVID-19 restrictions for your area

You should also be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 the most common symptoms are recent onset of:

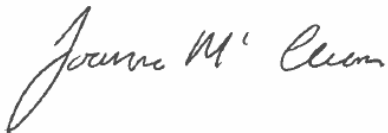
- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing

If your child, or anyone in your household, develops any of these symptoms, your whole household must remain at home and not go to work, school or public areas. You should arrange testing for the person who has developed symptoms. Testing for all symptomatic individuals in Northern Ireland can be booked at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test . When the result is known further advice will be available.

For further information, please see the Public Health Agency website <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus> or contact NHS 111. If your child feels unwell and you are worried about their symptoms or about anyone else in the home, please contact your GP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne M' Cleon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr Joanne McClean

Consultant in Public Health Medicine

