

8 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Earlier this week we wrote to all of our students to encourage them to consider downloading the NHS Covid-19 App which covers the following features:

- **Trace:** get alerted if you have been near other app users who have tested positive
- **Alert:** lets you know the level of coronavirus in your postcode district
- **Check-in:** get alerted if you have visited a venue where you may have come into contact with coronavirus
- **Symptoms:** check if you have coronavirus symptoms and see if you need to order a free test
- **Test:** helps you book a test and get the result
- **Isolate:** keep track of your self-isolation countdown and access relevant advice

Over 12 million people have now downloaded this, and we would urge everyone to consider doing this since the faster we know, the quicker we can alert and protect ourselves and others.

We also reminded students that if they get a message through the App telling them that they have been in 'close contact' with someone who has tested positive then they **must** follow the guidelines below from the NHS and **must not** come into College. The guidance is that:

- If you get an alert telling you that you've spent time near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, then you will have to stay at home for 14 days. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear. People in your household will not need to isolate unless you develop symptoms.
- If you develop symptoms during this 14-day period, follow the NHS guidance and get a test
- If you do not develop symptoms after 14 days, you can stop self-isolating at the end of the 14 days. You will not need a test. You should continue to stay alert and follow the government advice.
- If you have questions about how the advice applies, or are struggling with self-isolation, call 111.

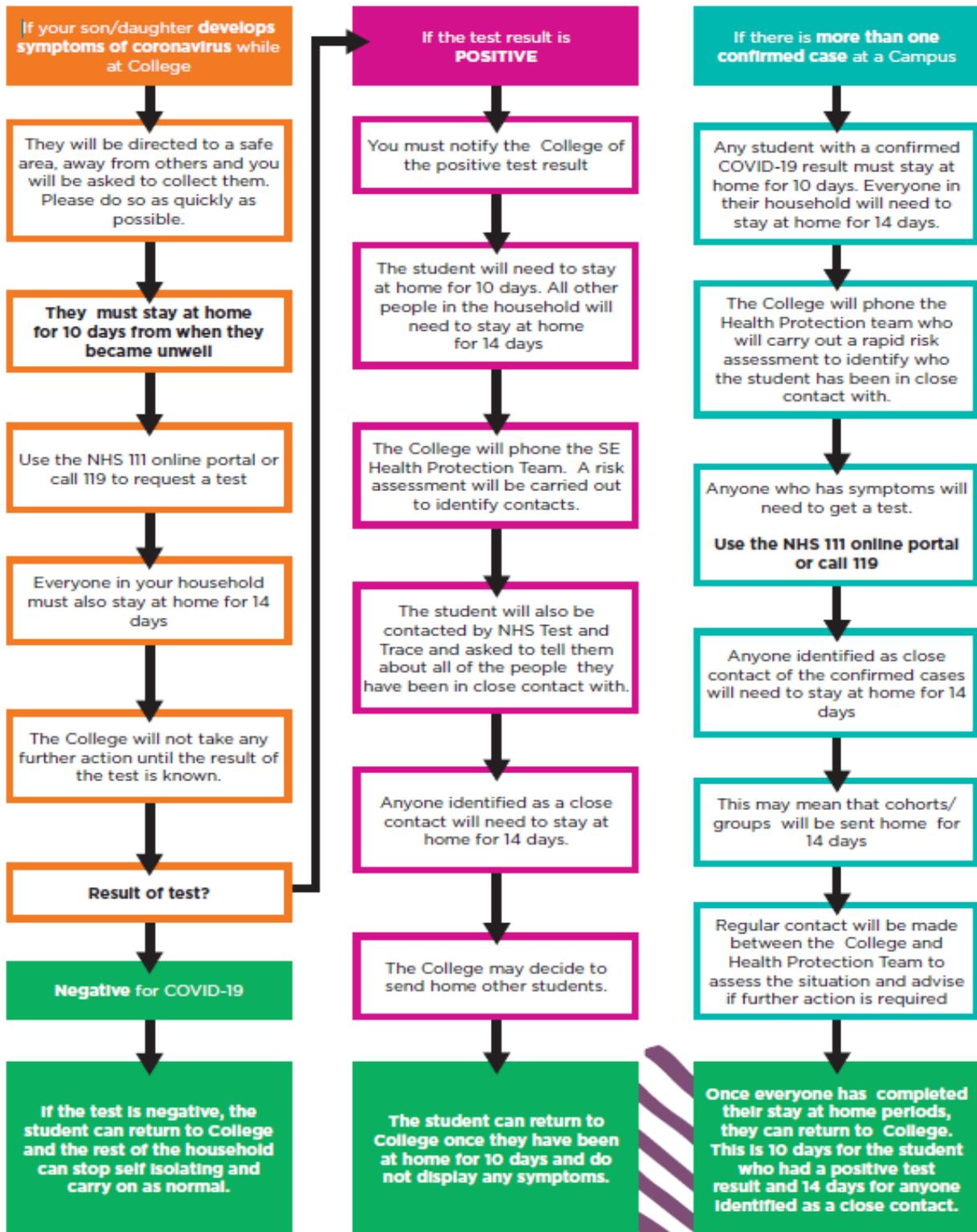
More information is available at <https://covid19.nhs.uk/>.

It has been great to see the College communities working together to protect each other and keep each other safe but we ask for your support as parents and carers in continuing to remind our young people of the importance of social distancing in social areas on campus and indeed off campus. We know that students are enjoying being back at College and spending time with their friends and we are working hard to get the right messages through about distancing and not congregating off campus in groups of more than six. We appreciate that it is difficult, but we all have to do our bit and as we remind students, they do not want to see another local lockdown.

If you need to notify us of any Covid-19 related issues, including notifying us of symptoms within the household, notification that you or your son or daughter has been contacted by Test & Trace or indeed if there is notification of a positive result please can we urge you to use the email address covidreport@hsvc.ac.uk. Alternatively, we have developed an online form for ease of notification – please see this on our website at <http://hsvc.ac.uk/coronavirus-update>.

In any cases of suspected or positive cases we will follow the guidance of Public Health England and outline below how we will manage any situations. This hopefully will answer some questions you may have about the need for self-isolation in certain circumstances.

Management of COVID-19



I should also state that we have a fully considered plan in place informed by other providers who have had positive cases and following Department for Education and Public Health England guidance. These are challenging times for everyone, but we will continue to do everything possible to continue delivery of provision as normally as possible.

We are enjoying working with our students and seeing the buzz of campus return and thank you for your support. May I also remind you that Tuesday 13th October is a Staff Development Day. Students will not have lessons but will be given guidance by their teachers on what work to complete.

Thank you and kind regards,



Mike Gaston
Principal and Chief Executive

