

Sent: 06 November 2020 14:29

Subject: Urgent Message from Mrs. Purnell - NO school catering from Monday 9th November until at least Wednesday 18th November

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have been made aware today that a member of our catering team has tested positive for Covid 19.

Whilst at this time, no other colleague in the team has tested positive nor is showing any symptoms, we have been advised by Public Health England that a number of colleagues from this team who routinely work in the same preparation and serving areas should also self-isolate from today as a precaution. This is due to the food-preparation environment in which they work and the possibility that they could have come into contact within 1 metre of the colleague who has tested positive and would therefore be deemed as a 'close contact'.

Please be aware that we have no reason to believe that any student or other non-catering member of staff could be deemed as a close contact and so this positive case only affects this one team within the school. In addition, as usual, and as per our risk assessments, all proper food hygiene protocols have been adhered to by all catering staff, both in the preparation and serving of food, and so there is no anticipated additional risk to any student or staff member who has dined at IGS.

However, as this is a relatively small team of specialist staff, you will understand the huge ramifications that self-isolation for a number of the team means from Monday, and it is simply not possible for us to offer any catering service at either break or lunchtime. Therefore, please provide your child with a packed lunch each day from Monday 9th November until at least Tuesday 17th November, so that we can continue to keep the school fully open. N.B. All students eligible for free school meals will be provided with a free grab bag, which is likely to contain a cold sandwich, drink and dessert item each day.

We appreciate the inconvenience and added hassle that this will likely cause many of you, but hope you can appreciate this is our only option in the circumstances.

We hope to be able to resume business as normal from Wednesday 18th November and would like to take this opportunity once again for your ongoing support of IGS in what is proving to be an exceptionally challenging year.

Kindest regards,

Carly Purnell
Headteacher