**Auchenharvie Academy Temporary Closure: Frequently Asked Questions**

**Introduction**

As a parent, carer or pupil of Auchenharvie Academy, you may wonder why the school has been closed temporarily. Below, we have answered some of your most common questions.

Why is the school currently closed?

The school is closed as a result of a positive Legionella sample in an isolated location.

Legionella bacteria is naturally occurring in the environment and is found in water bodies and also often found in water systems within buildings. It needs certain conditions to “proliferate” and therefore become a risk to people.

If it occurs naturally in the environment, what do you normally do to manage that risk?

The identification of the positive sample was a result of the robust water quality management regime that we have in place across all relevant Council buildings.

At Auchenharvie Academy, monthly water testing is undertaken, along with additional six monthly and annual checks in line with national guidance.

Why has a positive sample been found?

Alongside the above regular monitoring regime, when building works are undertaken that involve the water supply, a water quality check is always taken after completion of the works as standard practice as the isolation of the water supply can increase the risk.

The positive sample was obtained as part of the water quality testing undertaken after completion of the toilet refurbishment works in the building which were completed during the school holidays.

This is not unusual, and requires a ‘clean, flush and disinfect’ (CFD) process to clean and flush the water system to allow further samples to be taken and tested.

How serious is the risk?

It is only possible to contract Legionnaire’s disease by breathing-in water droplets which contain the bacteria and the risk is extremely small. However, it is important that we follow standard practice to deal with any positive sample and that we only re-open the school once we are completely satisfied with test results.

What are you doing about it?

When the positive sample was identified, we immediately instructed a full clean, flush and disinfect (CFD) process which was undertaken by a specialist water quality company, alongside some removal of redundant pipework. We are now in the process of the second round of re-sampling and testing to confirm that results are within the required tolerances for the school to re-open.

When will the school re-open?

We will re-open the school once the test results are clear. It is challenging to provide exact timescales because the testing process is undertaken in a laboratory setting and takes a number of days. We will provide further updates as soon as possible.

When the school re-opens, how can we be sure it is safe for children and staff?

We will only re-open the school once the test results are clear. We are following all standard regulations and guidance in place nationally to deal with Legionella risks. We are also taking expert advice from a specialist and experienced water quality company who deals with this type of situation on a daily basis. Additional regular monitoring of water quality will be undertaken after re-opening, purely as a precaution.

A full, deep clean will also be undertaken of the school prior to re-opening as additional assurance.

Are any other buildings affected?

No other buildings are affected.

What are the arrangements for ongoing education provision for children?

The Head Teacher and staff have been exceptional in their commitment during challenging circumstances to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for education provision.

From Monday 28th August, the following learning arrangements will apply:

* S1 pupils will continue to attend St Matthew’s Academy
* S2 pupils will continue to attend Ardrossan Civic Centre
* S3 pupils will continue to attend Saltcoats Town Hall
* S4 pupils will attend Kilwinning Academy
* S5-6 pupils will attend St Matthew’s Academy

What are you doing about transport for children to these different learning locations?

Transport is being provided for pupils travelling to St Matthews Academy, Ardrossan Civic Centre and Kilwinning Academy. Appropriate arrangements are also in place for ASN pupils.

What about catering and cleaning arrangements at these other locations?

All pupils are being provided with free snacks and lunches for the duration of the disruption. Additional cleaning is in place at the other learning locations where required.