

Re: COVID-19 - changes to contact tracing in education settings

Dear Parent / Carer

One of the key changes for our school at this step of the roadmap is that education settings are no longer conducting routine contact tracing. This letter details how the process works and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

### **NHS Test and Trace**

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace now work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case, to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

As a school we will of course cooperate with NHS test and trace to identify any close contacts from our perspective too.

**It is vitally important that you inform the Pastoral Leader for your child so that remote learning can be implemented for your child if they are absent from school due to Covid-19 reasons.**

### **What to do if your child has symptoms or tests positive.**

1. If your child has symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should inform their Pastoral Leader. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self isolating. If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they should self-isolate and you should inform their Pastoral Leader. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating and return to school. If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD) they must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. If your child has a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. **Being in school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.**
4. You will be asked to provide the contact details (if you know them) of anyone who has been identified as a close contact. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice

5. Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, if any of the following apply:

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR Test.

**We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.**

There is no requirement to self-isolate whilst awaiting the PCR test result but if a positive result is returned, they should self-isolate and not attend school, informing the relevant Pastoral Leader.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Pastoral Leader</b>	<b>Extension Number</b>
7	Mr Houston	342
8	Miss Herrington	224
9	Mrs Hall	239
10	Mrs Bensley	240
11	Mrs Jarvie	226
12	Ms Flint	215
13	Mr Turnbull	210

**PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test and Trace website or by calling 119.**

**PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the relevant Pastoral Leader at school.**

Yours sincerely

Sarah Maher  
Deputy Headteacher