






Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July. One of the key changes that has taken place from 19 July is that schools and other educational places including all childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will 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 already 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.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 	 <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children MUST attend school unless they are ill. • From 16 August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid (unless the child can not isolate from the positive case within the household, in which case we will provide home learning). • Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms whilst they await the result of the PCR test.
	 <p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test, <u>NOT</u> a Lateral Flow test. • If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. • If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

Symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You should immediately order a PCR test for them or take them for a drive through test. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.



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We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

We would also thank you in advance for continuing to do the following to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- Follow the current guidance on [how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser 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

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Scott
Headteacher