



16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Changes to contact tracing in school**

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on Monday 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on Monday 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from Monday 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other settings, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case, or in the case of children, the parents or carers 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. Below we have provided more detail directly from the Department for Education on how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for Covid-19.

## **What to do if your child has Covid-19 symptoms from Monday 19 July onwards**

### Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

### Contact tracing

5. If your child gets 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 an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals, or their parents or carers who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

#### Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. **From Monday 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

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.

Department for Education – July 2021

#### **Start of Year arrangements**

Next week you will receive a letter containing information about our start of term arrangements. This will include details about on-site Lateral Flow Testing arrangements in the first days of term. Our plans involve bringing Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 in on Thursday 2 September and all other year groups on Friday 3 September. This is a change to previously published information and affects Year 11 returning a day earlier than originally planned.

Do enjoy the sunshine this weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Smith  
Head of School