

Dear Parent / Carer,

Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

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

One of the key changes that will take place from 19th July is that education and 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 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.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school – including transport home - you **must** let the school know. This is because up until 19th July, the school will assist NHS Test and Trace in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 during the Summer holiday, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by [NHS Test and Trace](#).

If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and 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 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 let the school know up to and including 19th July.

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 16th 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 an 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.

If you have any queries or concerns over the holiday, please email parents@holbrookacademy.org and a member of staff will respond to you. This email will be regularly monitored but please allow sufficient time for a response.

Further information regarding support for students can be found on the final page of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Maltby

Support for Students / Families

Whilst the school is closed, students will not be able to contact the pastoral team or key workers in the usual way, however, other agencies remain open to offer support and guidance. A reminder of the support available can be found here:-

www.4yp.org.uk

www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.kooth.com

www.outreachyouth.org.uk

www.headstogether.org.uk

www.parentsandcarerstogether.co.uk/

How can I keep my child safe online?

- Be aware of what your child is doing online.
- Visit [CEOP](http://www.ceop.gov.uk) (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) and talk to your child about how to raise concerns.

If you need to report a concern about a child or young person at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

If it's an emergency, you can call:

- Customer First on 0808 800 4005 if you're worried that a child or young person is at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect
- the Police on 999

What if I'm struggling to cope myself?

With so many challenges for families at present, it's understandable that adults too might need further support. If you're worried about you or another adult, please visit The Samaritans who have lots of information, support and guidance – www.samaritans.org or call 116 123