**COVID-19**

**Re: 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.

**From 19th July:**

* **Comper School will no longer conduct routine contact tracing.**
* **NHS Test and Trace will work with parents, carers or guardians of the positive case 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 has symptoms**:

* They and other members of the household should self-isolate
* You should inform their education or childcare setting
* You should immediately order a PCR test for them
* **Negative PCR**: they and other members of their household can **stop self-isolating** (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons)
* **Positive PCR**, 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**
* Positive PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically
* You should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

**Lateral Flow testing:**

* If a person in your household has a **positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test** they and other members of the household should **self-isolate**
* **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.**
* PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/) or by calling 119.

**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 guardians – 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.

**From 16 August:**

**9.**

* if the close contact is **under 18, they will not** have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults).
* They will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, but they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test.
* If the **PCR test is positive**, they **must 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.