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Creating
opportunities for
everyone

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid 19 – changes to isolation & testing rules

From the end of the last school year, the school is no longer responsible for the 'tracking and tracing' of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. Instead, NHS test and trace will work with positive cases and their parents to identify **close contacts**. As always, we are working hard to make school as free from Covid as possible and though isolation rules have changed, we will continue to urge a cautious and sensible approach and maintain high standards of hygiene, including with our pupils.

A close contact is considered to be someone who has had **contact any time from two days before** the person who tested positive **developed their symptoms** (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from two days before the date their positive test was taken), and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others. A contact can be:

- anyone who lives in the same household as someone who has Covid-19 symptoms or who has tested positive
- someone who has had face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having face-to-face conversation within one metre
- being within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact]
- being within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (one-off or added up contacts over the course of a day)

Isolation rule changes

Changes to isolation rules were made on the 16th of August. This means children (and adults who have had both vaccines) **do not have to isolate**, even if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

A symptomatic testing, although not compulsory for primary age pupils, is a useful way of identifying cases in the community. These are in the form of rapid lateral flow tests. These can be done at home and you will know the results within 30 minutes. If your child tests positive, they should isolate and get a PCR test to confirm their results.

They should not attend school while awaiting the results.



Responsibility ~ Courage ~ Collaboration ~ Reflectiveness ~ Independence ~ Resilience

LFTs are available to order to your home using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If you (or your child) develop any other symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange for a PCR test. PCR tests are available at local walk-in and drive-through centres. Follow this link to get a PCR test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

What to do if my child has symptoms? – *get a PCR test, isolate until result*

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, they should not attend school and should take a PCR test. It is really important that they do this. They should isolate while waiting for the results of the test. If the results of the PCR tests are negative, they may return to school. If the results are positive, they must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. You will need to talk to NHS test and trace to identify the close contacts of your child. In some cases, NHS test and trace will contact School to assist with this or we can assist parents with identifying close contacts.

What to do if someone in my household tests positive? – *get a PCR test, no need to isolate pending result*

If someone in your household test positive, your child should take a PCR test. They are able to attend school while awaiting the results. If the results are negative, the child can continue attending school. If the child test positive, they must isolate for 10 days from death from the date of the test.

What to do if my child is identified as a close contact? – *get a PCR test, no need to isolate pending result*

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they will be advised to take a PCR test. They can attend school whilst awaiting the results. If the results are negative, the child can continue attending school. If the child test positive, they must isolate for 10 days from the date of the test.

From September, all schools are required to have an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which goes alongside our Covid risk assessment. This new document outlines actions our school now take if we experience a number of cases amongst our pupils. This is now in place and is available to view on our school website.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Chris Johnson
Headteacher

- Identifying symptoms of Covid: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>
- Ordering Lateral Flow Tests to your home: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- Book a PCR Test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>