

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear parent/carer/guardian

**Re: Changes to covid routines and contact tracing in schools**

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

One of the key changes is that schools are no longer conducting routine contact tracing or required to close whole class groups/bubbles. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work either with the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts. If there is a positive case in your child's class we will write to let you know so that you can monitor your child carefully for symptoms and carry out lateral flow testing yourselves. Kits for this are free from school or local chemists.

If your child was sent home to self-isolate due to close contact or 'bubble' closure last week then they have to complete the full 10 days and should not return to school until the date given in the original letter. This is government guidance and not in our power to change.

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 and organise PCR tests for the family. If the test is positive, please call and let us know. All members of the household will need to self-isolate for 10 days if anyone tests positive. If tests are negative then you do not need to isolate. NHS Track and Trace will be in touch with you to identify any close contacts.
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 organise a confirmation PCR test as above. Again, please let us know about any positive tests of children attending our school.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.

Contact tracing

4. 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 a school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

5. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend school.
6. 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.
7. **From 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 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.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has made. It's been very hard having to send classes of children home, particularly this close to the end of term, but we have always followed government guidance to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for being so understanding over this past year and helping us by understanding the hard decisions we have had to make.

Have a lovely summer break when it finally gets here, stay safe and join us in hoping for a more ordinary year from September

Best regards



Mrs Liz Anderson  
CEO  
Djanogly Learning Trust.