2nd September 2021

Dear Parent and/or Carer,

I am writing to you to summarise the changes in schools to contact tracing and the new regulations as to how we will operate as introduced under the Stage 4 of the roadmap announced in July.

The major change in school is that individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and if any of the following apply:

* they are fully vaccinated
* they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months

We will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing for positive Covid cases in school. NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case, or in the case of children, the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

**Close contacts of a positive case will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test.**

**Individuals will only be asked to stay home for Covid-related reasons if:**

* **they are symptomatic**
* **they have tested positive with a PCR or LFD (they may return if a positive LFD result is followed by a confirmatory negative PCR within 2 days.**

This should dramatically reduce the number of times your child will need to miss face-to-face teaching and all of the stress and disruption that this causes.

**Q. What to do I do if my child has Covid symptoms?**

1. They should self-isolate.
2. You should inform us at school.
3. You should immediately book a PCR test for them.
4. Anyone in your household who is over 18yrs and have not been fully vaccinated will need to isolate.

If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of the household can stop self-isolating. If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms. NHS Test and Trace will inform any close contacts of their specific need to isolate or not.

**Q. What do I do if my child tests positive on a LFD test?**

1. They and other members of the household over 18yrs who are not fully vaccinated should self-isolate.
2. You should inform school.
3. You should immediately book a confirmatory PCR test.

If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and anyone else who is isolating in the home can stop. If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD) they must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test. Again, NHS Test and Trace will inform close contacts as to their need to isolate and of the end date for this.

**Q. How can I book at PCR Test?**

PCR tests can be booked by phoning 119 or online through the NHS Test & Trace website: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing.

PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the school during term time.

**Q. How does the NHS Test and Trace undertake their contact tracing?**

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you using the details you registered when booking 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.

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.

**In school changes:**

Government advice is that we should return as much as possible to school life pre-Covid. Therefore:

* Face masks are not required in school, this is a matter of personal choice. However, it might be a sensible precaution to continue to wear a face mask in corridors or communal areas. Face masks are expected and recommended to be worn when travelling on public transport.
* Your daughter will not be limited to year group or class bubbles.
* Seating plans will change according to the lessons that she is in.
* Assemblies will resume.

**In school measures:**

We will continue to follow the up-to-date guidance on Covid prevention measures in school by:

* Ensuring good hygiene for everyone and maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
* Keeping classrooms well ventilated.
* Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As ever, the Covid situation is an ever changing one. We have been required to ensure that our contingency plans cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to step up our Covid response and reintroduce bubbles or face masks for a temporary period. Please be assured that any such additional measures are not taken lightly and only in consultation with Publish Health England and Public Health Birmingham.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Jones

Headteacher