



St Thomas & St Anne's CE Primary School

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~ Working Together to Achieve Our Best ~

Dear Parents,

Re: Contact tracing and self-isolation in education and childcare settings

As you are aware, education and childcare settings are not expected 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 or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

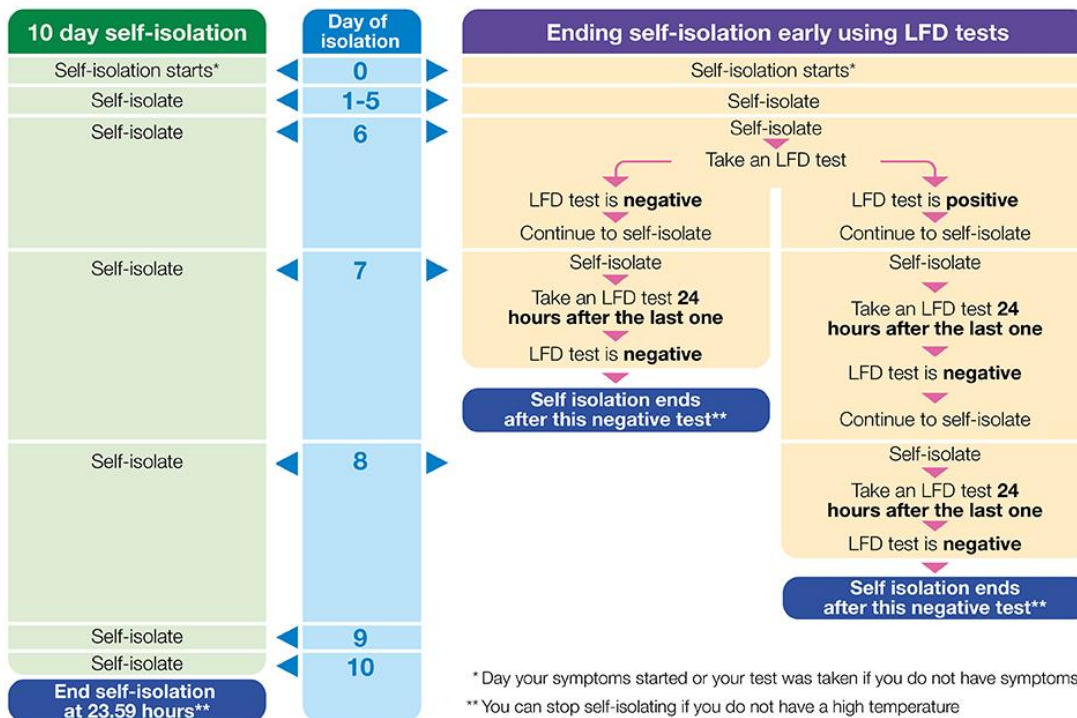
NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society - including children who have recorded a positive PCR test - and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

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 has COVID-19 symptoms, they should self-isolate, and you should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR test result is negative, they can stop self-isolating. If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate.
2. If your child is asymptomatic (NOT displaying any symptoms) and has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they should self-isolate - and you should inform their education or childcare setting. From today, 11 January 2022, the advice for people who have a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result has changed. They are no longer required to have a follow-up polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately.
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 communicate the result to the education or childcare setting.

- The government has recently introduced an option for individuals who test positive to end their self isolation period on or after 7 days of self isolation. Individuals who take an LFD test on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period and receive two negative LFD test results taken 24 hours apart are no longer required to complete the full 10 days of self-isolation. If a person does not wish to or cannot participate in voluntary day 6 and day 7 LFD testing, they must continue to self-isolate for the full 10 day self-isolation period.



Contact tracing

- 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.
- 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

8. 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 any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
 - they have taken part in, or are currently part of, an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

9. Close contacts aged five and above are strongly advised to take part in Daily Testing of Covid Contacts. This means that if you are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace or a public health official that you will be asked to take seven daily LFD tests. It is strongly advised that the daily LFD test is taken before leaving the house for the first time each day and provided the test is negative, your child will be able to continue attending their setting.

10. Participation in Daily Testing of Covid Contacts is advisory but is strongly encouraged. This will help reduce transmission and support continued face-face education.

11. Children under 5 years who are identified as close contacts are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily LFD testing of close contacts. They are advised to take a PCR test only if the positive case is in their household.

12. We would also advise any individuals identified as close contact to follow the guidance on [how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). Additionally, UKHSA [Stay at home guidance](#) details some further actions that close contacts may wish to take in addition to getting a PCR test.

We recognise how difficult this has been and the sacrifices that all families, education, and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done and are continuing to do.

Kind regards,

Hannah McGrath