

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear parents,

Further to recent guidelines, schools no longer have to carry out routine contact tracing for Covid-19. Close contacts are now identified and contacted by NHS Test and Trace and schools will not routinely be contacted to provide details of close contacts.

However, schools will be required to monitor cases to identify any outbreaks that meet the threshold for escalation defined in the Education Contingency Framework. In order to do this, it is recommended that schools keep a record of positive cases so we would be grateful if any positive cases are reported to us using the normal channels. Below are some FAQs that we think will be useful to you. Guidance continues to be updated at a fast pace and these will be regularly updated accordingly as we progress through the autumn term.

If a pupil or member of staff tests positive for Covid-19 will close contacts need to isolate?

From 16 August, fully vaccinated adults*, those who have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial, those who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons those under 18 years 6 months identified as close contacts **are not** required to self-isolate unless they are symptomatic. Instead, close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test. If positive, NHS Test and Trace will inform the individual of next steps.

*Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK (some vaccines administered outside of the UK are not MHRA approved) and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine (currently 2nd dose).

Will the school be expected to be involved in contact tracing in September?

Schools will not be asked to undertake routine contact tracing for children and young people. Contact tracing will be limited to close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace. Schools may be contacted in exceptional cases to help identify close contacts. Schools might find it useful to note who each case 'mixed closely' with in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset/positive result to inform decisions regarding outbreak management. Schools will still need to close contact trace amongst their staff community. NHS Test and Trace will then make contact to advise on isolation (if not fully vaccinated) and testing.



If children are happy, they will achieve!



Why are Test and Trace taking over contact tracing from schools?

Schools have done a brilliant job in identifying contacts over the course of the pandemic, but this is resource intensive. NHS Test & Trace already manage the contact tracing process for the rest of society and has developed expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

How will a child or young person know what is meant by 'close contact'?

NHS Test & Trace will contact those who test positive – or their parent or legal guardian – to identify close contacts. They will ask a series of specific questions to help the individual understand what is meant by a close contact, making it easier for them to be identified. Contacts in a school would only be traced if the positive case specifically identified an individual as having close, prolonged contact.

What should I do if my child tests positive?

The individual should continue to isolate for 10 days. Self-isolation periods include the day your symptoms started or the day you took the test if you did not have symptoms and then next full 10 days. The parent must liaise with NHS test and trace for close contact purposes. They should inform the school of their positive result.

What should I do if my child has symptoms?

Keep the child at home and report the absence in the normal way. Keep the school updated. If the child takes a PCR and received a negative result, they still should not return to school until they are at least 24 hours fever free.

What should happen if someone in a pupil's household tests positive for Covid-19?

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 and 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

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

What happens if someone in school tests positive?

The school will notify families of a positive test within the school community. We then advise families to follow the government guidance.

Yours sincerely



Miss Robbins
Head teacher

