



Tuesday 20 July 2021



Dear Parent/ Carer

Covid-19 Contact Tracing

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July. One of the key changes that has taken place is that education and childcare settings are no longer asked 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. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate - and you should **inform their education or childcare setting**. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

Educational settings are now not routinely contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Individual positive cases and/or their parents or legal guardians will instead be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and their close contacts will be traced and asked to follow relevant public health advice. Contacts in an educational setting will only be traced if the positive case specifically identified an individual as having close, prolonged contact which will normally have occurred in a social setting e.g. sleepovers. Educational settings will not routinely be contacted to provide details of close contacts. However, settings may be contacted, if deemed necessary, by local health protection teams in response to a local outbreak, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From September we will not be informing parents/ carers of a positive case of Covid-19 within our setting. Government guidance is clear that educational settings 'should not disclose any information that could result in an individual being identified'. If there is a local outbreak, a change to the guidance or it is deemed appropriate by our local health protection team then we will of course review this. We will however, consider whether certain individuals in our setting (taking account of factors such as known vulnerability) need to be informed. **Please do not contact the school office to ask whether there is a positive case of Covid-19 within school as we will be unable to discuss this due to the reason outlined above.**

Please be reassured that if our local health protection team informs us that there is an outbreak within our setting then we will implement our 'outbreak management plan'. A copy of this plan can be found on our school website: [https://www.poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk/web/covid-19 information/500548](https://www.poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk/web/covid-19%20information/500548) Our plan outlines a number of measures that we may need to reintroduce should this be necessary- they include things such as keeping the children in consistent bubbles or restricting school attendance for face-to-face learning.

As always, much can change over the summer holidays. Should there be any further updates or if any guidance or measures change before our return, then I will send you an update via ParentMail and Class Dojo. I will also write information in the first newsletter once we start back in September confirming arrangements for the term ahead.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Hodson
Head Teacher

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY LETTERS TRANSLATING, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL

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