



10th September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

It has been lovely to welcome back our students this week through testing and the various inductions. It is excellent that so many of our students and all of our staff are participating in the twice weekly lateral flow testing. This is an important part of keeping ourselves and others safe by preventing the transmission of COVID-19. In this letter I want to provide some answers to frequently asked questions regarding self-isolation. However, as always, we want to work with you to ensure we maximise your child's attendance at school and will support you as you know your children and your personal circumstances best. As always should you have any questions please do contact the school on office@bridlingtonschool.org.uk and we will do all we can to help.

You will be aware that schools are no longer conducting contact tracing. As with other settings, 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 and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

It is important to remember that being in a setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 won't necessarily mean they are identified as a contact. NHS Test and Trace expect there to be a small number of close contacts on average for each case.

NHS Test and Trace will get in touch with those who are identified as close contacts and advise them on the steps they need to take.

Schools may be contacted by the local Public Health team if there is an outbreak in the school as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

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.

Below I outline some FAQ's that have been provided for schools to share with parents / carers. Once again we all need to learn what the new rules are to follow in terms of managing COVID-19 but I would like to reassure you again of the four key control measures in school.

1. Ensuring good hygiene:

- **Hand Hygiene:** Frequent and thorough hand sanitising, now regular practice upon entry into a room.
- **Respiratory hygiene:** Follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.



2. Maintaining enhanced cleaning routines: touch points will be regularly cleaned such as door handles, desks will be wiped before use and toilets will be cleaned after each use.
3. Good ventilation: doors and windows will be opened to ensure good throughput of air. This must be balanced with maintaining a comfortable temperate to enable learning. As last year we recommend wearing layers under uniform in the colder months.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19:
 - Twice weekly lateral flow testing (asymptomatic testing).
 - Confirmatory PCR testing – taken if you have a positive lateral flow test result or have been advised to do so by the NHS.
 - If you have symptoms of Covid-19 stay home and book a PCR test

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that we have all 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 continue to do.

Should you have any questions please do contact the school on office@bridlingtonschool.org.uk and we will do all we can to help.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Parker-Randall
Headteacher

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What do I do if my child has symptoms?

1. **If your child has symptoms**, they and other members of the household should self-isolate and inform the school by emailing office@bridlingtonschool.org.uk or telephoning the school on 01262 672593.
2. Immediately book a PCR test for them.
 - If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed by the NHS 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.



What do I do if my child has a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result?

1. **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 inform the school by emailing office@bridlingtonschool.org.uk or telephoning the school on 01262 672593
2. Immediately book a PCR test through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
 - If the PCR is negative you can stop isolating and send the PCR result to the school
 - If the PCR is positive isolate as per the track and trace guidance and send the track and trace email to the school. NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
3. Always inform the school of the PCR test result by emailing office@bridlingtonschool.org.uk or telephoning the school on 01262 672593

How does NHS Test and Trace contact tracing work?

- If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when book 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).
- School will not be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to identify contacts.

I live with someone who has symptoms – what do I do?

- Take a PCR Test
- Contact the school and inform them your child is taking a PCR test
- Inform the school of the result of the PCR test result by emailing office@bridlingtonschool.org.uk or telephoning the school on 01262 672593

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, depending on the result of your PCR test, may not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

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