

19th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the new guidance that has been issued over the last week, we have received some questions that we would like to clarify with all parents.

1. Definition of a Close Contact

a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic (or 2 days before a test if no symptoms) up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For schools' purposes, a close contact can be:

- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19."

2. Self-Isolation

- a. If a parent or student shows signs of Covid-19 (symptoms such as new persistent cough, high temperature, change in sense of taste or smell) they should:
 - i. Stay at home and self-isolate (themselves for 10 days and their household for 14 days)
 - ii. Book a test (person who is symptomatic only)
 - iii. Inform Track and Trace of their personal contacts (see below)
 - iv. Inform the school that they have symptoms
 - v. Students can return to school on the day after their self-isolation ends, or following a negative test result
- b. If a parent or student has been contacted by Test and Trace they should:
 - i. Self-isolate until the date they have given by Test and Trace
 - ii. Inform the school

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- iii. Students should return to school on the date given by Test and Trace
- c. If a parent or student has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 as a close contact they should:
 - i. (not a household member) Self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with a positive case
 - ii. (household member) Self-isolate for 14 days from the start of symptoms or test date if there are no symptoms
 - iii. Inform the school of the date at which the self-isolation began
 - iv. Students should return to school on the day after their self-isolation ends
- d. If a parent or student has been advised by a health professional to self-isolate or take a Covid-19 test they should:
 - i. Self-isolate until the date they have been given
 - ii. Inform the school
 - iii. Students should return to school on the date given by the health professional

3. Test and Trace

- a. If a parent or student tests positive for Covid-19 they should inform Test and Trace of personal contacts and notify the school
- b. The school will undertake contact tracing of staff and students and will make arrangements accordingly
- c. Parents should not put any members of staff or students into Test and Trace unless they have had contact outside of school, and this contact should also be reported to the school

Public Health England have advised that any instructions from school informing students or parents that they need to self-isolate should be seen as legally binding as the school is working on behalf of and on the advice of the Department for Education and Public Health England. There is a legal duty to self-isolate following the conditions above, which came into force on 28th September, and those breaking the rules could be fined (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today>).

In areas which are in Tier 2, such as Leeds, the following Local Rules and Restrictions are now in force and it is against the law to:

- have guests inside your home
- go inside someone else's home (in or outside of Leeds)
- meet people you do not live with inside any other indoor venue, such as a pub, cafe or restaurant (in or outside of Leeds)
- meet with more than 5 other people outside

If you do not follow these rules you will be breaking the law and could be fined (<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus/local-rules>).

We are more than happy to discuss individual circumstances that may be arising with parents and students, and offer advice and guidance, and would advocate that if you are unsure, please contact the school.

Thank you

Emma Sullivan
Principal



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