

My ref: Step 4 & September  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Contact: Please contact your school  
for more information



To parents/carers of pupils in  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Early  
Years Establishments, Schools and

Public Health  
Education Directorate

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Public Health advice and changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings**

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

However, cases are currently rising in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and expected to continue to do so for some while. A lower proportion of our population is vaccinated compared to the East of England and National averages, hence we are urging everyone over the age of 18 years to get vaccinated. Vaccines are significantly reducing the link between infections and severe disease and death. You can check the most up to date list of vaccinations centres here <https://www.thevaccinators.co.uk/>. The recent spread of the now dominant Delta variant is estimated to be 40- 80% more transmissible than the previously dominant Alpha variant.

We would also encourage parents and those pupils in secondary schools and students in post-16 centres who are under the age of 18, to continue to take twice weekly rapid lateral flow tests over the summer and get a PCR test if a rapid test shows positive, or if you have symptoms. Children under 11 should not be taking lateral flow tests.

There are also clear benefits to continuing to do the right thing by following the following public health guidelines:

- Meeting in well-ventilated areas where possible, such as outdoors or indoors with windows open.
- Wearing a face covering where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces.
- Washing your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.
- Staying at home if unwell, to reduce the risk of passing on other illnesses onto friends, family, colleagues, and others in your community.
- Considering the individual risks of people who are clinical vulnerable and not yet vaccinated.

### **Changes to contact tracing**

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the person who has tested positive – 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.

Up until the 16<sup>th</sup> August, it has been agreed locally with Public Health England that where there are 2 or more linked cases within 14 days in a school/setting, the school/setting will work with the local authority to identify close contacts and we will continue to advise close contacts to isolate for 10 days.

The detail below outlines 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

- 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.
- PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
- 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 during term time or the setting where they are accessing provision over the summer.

### 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 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).

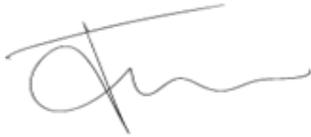
### Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

- At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test. NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
- Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
- **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, (other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts), and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test.

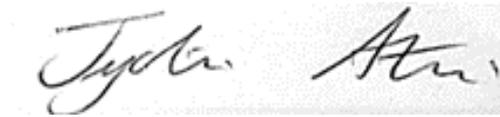
For those parents with children of secondary school age who travel to school on transport commissioned by the Councils, there will be an ongoing expectation for face coverings to be worn throughout the journey from September. This will be reviewed later in the autumn.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Lewis', with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Lewis  
Service Director – Education  
Cambridgeshire County Council and  
Peterborough City Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jyoti Atri', with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jyoti Atri  
Director of Public Health  
Cambridgeshire County Council and  
Peterborough City Council