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Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings**

As you will be aware, National Covid Guidance has changed. It now states that people who have been fully vaccinated are no longer required to self isolate if they have contact with a positive case of Covid; also, those under 18 & ½ years of age no longer need to self isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

Across the Nebula federation of schools the Covid risk assessment has been updated, in line with Norfolk County Council guidance, with policy & procedures in school altered to reflect the new guidance. As we all work hard to navigate the new systems in school, you may have a few questions about how this may affect your child at school; we have attempted to answer some of your possible queries in this letter.

### **[Covid Q&A for parents/carers](#)**

#### **What are the common symptoms of 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 have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

#### **Can my child come to school if they have Covid symptoms?**

No, they should remain at home and a PCR test should be arranged. If positive, they must self isolate for 10 days. If negative, and they are well, they can return to school.

#### **If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?**

Yes, the child can come to school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should arrange a PCR test.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

#### **If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?**

Yes, your child can come to school if they have no symptoms. It is recommended that an LFD test/PCR test is taken to confirm your child is negative but they can attend school whilst waiting for the results of this.

Further guidance on guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#exempt>

### **Can my child come to school if they are identified as a close contact from the community?**

Yes, if they do not have symptoms. It is recommended that a LFD test/PCR test is taken to confirm your child is negative but they can attend school whilst waiting for the results of this.

### **What happens if someone in the class has symptoms?**

The child will go home, have a PCR test and self isolate until the result is received. The other children in the class will continue to attend school. PCR tests can be booked online through the website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/> or by calling 119. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but we would ask that you also keep us informed.

### **If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?**

The child who tested positive will self isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS Test & Trace. All other children can continue to attend school.

### **How does NHS Test & Trace work?**

1. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering 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.
2. 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).
3. Further guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

### **Does my child need to take regular LFD tests?**

No, this is not required for primary aged children, however it is understood that some families may do this. Adults taking LFD tests regularly (2 x a week) is recommended and has continued for school staff at Horsford.

### **If a staff member tests positive, what happens?**

The member of staff will isolate for 10 days with cover provided in school. If the teacher isolating at home is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely into the classroom for some parts of the day to retain contact with the children.

### **Does the school need to be informed if the child or a member of their household tests positive?**

Yes, the school office should be informed immediately so that appropriate actions can be taken to keep staff and children safe.

### **Will my child receive work if they are self isolating?**

Yes, work will be provided for your child self isolating at home if they are well enough to complete it. Teachers will liaise with parents as appropriate.

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.

We would also thank you in advance for continuing to do the following to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- Follow the current guidance on [how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any further questions.

Stay safe,

Anatola JKirton N.S.Owen .

Miss Anatola, Mrs Kirton and Miss Owen  
Horsford Senior leadership team