

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING – ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS

What happens next if a child who attends or staff member who works at an educational setting tests positive for COVID-19?

If a child who attends or staff member who works at an educational setting tests positive for COVID-19, and this diagnosis has been confirmed, then the school will be contacted by a contact tracer to identify individuals who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive. They will ask for details of the case so they can confirm if the case has been reported.

There are two main types of contact that the contact tracer will seek to identify:

- **Direct** contacts without PPE:
 - being coughed on, or
 - having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre, or
 - having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - travel in a small vehicle with the case, or
 - any contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- **Close** contact without PPE:
 - Extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case

The contact tracer will be based in the Greater Manchester Contact Tracing Hub (gmscp.contacttracing@nhs.net).

Whilst waiting for Greater Manchester Contact Tracing Hub to make contact, the school should:

- a) Identify an appropriate member of the leadership team to work with the contact tracer.
- b) Begin the process of identifying direct and close contacts of the case within the school setting during the 48 hours prior to the child or staff member falling ill or

whilst the child or staff member was ill. This is likely to be the classmates and teacher of that class.

- c) Consider the potential number of direct and close contacts and the implications of this for business continuity.
- d) Begin to consider the potential support requirements of those who may be asked to self-isolate, including potential online learning requirements.
- e) Identify any other individuals who may be symptomatic and support them to apply for a test.
- f) Contact your Local Authority Infection Prevention and Control Team.

Once a discussion has taken place between the school and the contact tracer, all confirmed direct and close contacts will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days starting from the day they were last in contact with the case and should not attend school during that time period.

Further advice can be found via <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

Personal and community contacts of the person with the confirmed diagnosis will be contacted separately by the national test and trace service and this will be directly with the person. The school do not need to identify these people.

Household members of an identified contact **do not** need to self-isolate unless the contact develops symptoms.

The contact tracer will provide a standard letter to the school containing the advice for contacts and their families. The school will be asked to send the letter to the identified contacts.

A person identified as a contact will not be tested unless they develop symptoms. If a pupil should develop symptoms, then their parent/carer should arrange for tested via [NHS UK](#) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access This would also apply to any parent or household member who develops symptoms.

If any staff contact develops symptoms then they can apply for a test via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>.

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