



2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings**

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

One of the key changes that took place from 19<sup>th</sup> July is that education and childcare settings were no longer asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case, or in the case of children, the parents or carers of the positive case to identify close contacts.

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.

**Self-isolating and taking a test**

1. If your child has symptoms:

- your child should self isolate
- you should inform school
- You should immediately order /book a PCR test for them.
- If the PCR result is negative, they can return to school
- If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate as directed by NHS track and Trace
- Children (those under 18 years and 6 months) and other adult members of their household and any close contacts who have been fully vaccinated for two weeks do not need to self isolate unless directed to by NHS track and Trace.

2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test:

- they should self-isolate
- you should inform school
- You should immediately order/book a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).



- If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), they must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
  4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to school during term time. .

### **Contact tracing**

5. 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.
6. 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**

7. **From 16<sup>th</sup> 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 an 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. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above).

**18-year-olds** will be given the opportunity to get fully vaccinated before being treated as adults. But 6 months after their 18th birthday, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact

Please do encourage your child to have a vaccine as soon as they are available for their year group; this is currently anyone aged 16 and over.



# KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Kings Norton Girls' School & Sixth Form  
Selly Oak Road  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B30 1HW

T. 0121 675 1305  
F. 0121 675 2514  
E. [enquiry@kngs.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@kngs.co.uk)  
W. [www.kngs.co.uk](http://www.kngs.co.uk)

Headteacher Mrs Nicola Raggett GLCM (Hons)

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, 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

Nicola Raggett - Headteacher

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