

Information for Parents regarding COVID19 Contact Tracing over the Christmas Holiday period (including Local Authority Advice)

11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will probably have seen in the press recently and from the letter that we forwarded from the Local Authority yesterday, that there has been a significant increase in the rate of infection from Covid 19 in Basildon. This has resulted in the option of early Christmas closure for Secondary schools in the area and many have already expressed their intention to move to remote learning from next week.

However, at the present time there is no such option for Primary Schools and whilst some are having to partially or totally close due to the numbers of cases in school, we currently have no cases and will therefore continue to open as normal and for as long as possible.

As you know schools have played a vital role in reducing the spread of COVID19 over the last 9 months. One way in which they have done this is by undertaking contact tracing on behalf of the Essex Contact Tracing team. They identify any individuals who have been in close contact at school with someone who has tested positive for COVID19, during the time that is considered the contagious period. This is from 2 days before the person's symptoms are displayed. Those individuals are then required to self-isolate for 14 days because they are at risk of having contracted COVID19 and being contagious themselves.

This contact tracing will not be taking place in the usual way during the Christmas break when schools are closed and there is less chance of school-based contacts existing.

From the 18th December 2020 until the 23rd December 2020, it will still be necessary to notify the school if your child develops symptoms of Covid or has a positive test result. This is so that we can notify the test and trace service and contact parents of children in the bubbles in order to inform them of the need to isolate. In order to facilitate this, we will be using the emergency communication email and this will be checked between 12.00 and 1.00pm each day. Please do not use this email address for any other notifications, these can be sent as usual to the office address given on our website.

Please follow the guidance below if your child begins to show symptoms of COVID19 during the Christmas break.

1. SYMPTOMS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ATTENDING SCHOOL

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school (i.e. shows symptoms on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December)

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let your school know that this has occurred.

The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID19, you must inform your school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

You should contact the school on emergencycommunication@lincewood.essex.sch.uk between 10.00am-12.00 noon

You must provide the following: name of child, class, date of symptoms starting, last date of attendance, date of test (if your child has had one) and a contact number.

2. NO SYMPTOMS BUT TESTS POSITIVE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ATTENDING SCHOOL

If your child has no symptoms of COVID19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school (i.e. tests positive on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December).

It is important to follow the guidance around accessing a test only when the individual is showing signs of COVID19. **However, if your child is asymptomatic and returns a positive test result within 48 hours of last being in school, please let the school know straight away.**

You should contact the school on emergencycommunication@lincewood.essex.sch.uk between 10.00am and 12 noon

You must provide the following: name of child, class, date of symptoms starting, last date of attendance, date of test (if your child has had one) and a contact number.

3. SYMPTOMS AFTER 48 HOURS OF ATTENDING SCHOOL

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, (Sunday 20th December 2020) you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/

You should contact the school if your child will be absent, in time for the first day of the new term.

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19, they must self-isolate for 14 days.

I would encourage you to adhere to social distancing and all COVID19 social mixing guidance for the remainder of term to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus as the last thing we want is anyone being unwell or required to self-isolate over the holiday period.

In order to facilitate the safe and secure re-opening of the school after the Christmas holidays, the Local Authority have agreed a day of remote learning on Monday 4th January 2021. This will mean that the school itself will be closed but staff and pupils will be required to work from home. Your child will be provided with information and links to their home learning for that day, next week.

We look forward to seeing everybody back rested and in full health on the Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support. I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Braithwaite
Acting Head teacher