



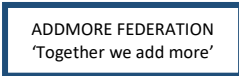
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Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Henney,  
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11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents,

I would like to update you with the most recent guidance from Shropshire Local Authority in relation to Covid-19 Testing and management of possible and confirmed cases. In addition to this, referenced is the type of information you can expect to receive from school or Track and Trace should the school find itself in a scenario whereby there are several reports of confirmed cases within either the school or a single class.

As ever please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information of further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Henney

### **What is a suspected Case?**

A suspected case is anyone in the setting with at least one of the 3 COVID-19 symptoms. These are as follows:

- High Temperature – This means you feel hot to touch on either your forehead or chest – You do not have to measure your temperature.
- New, continuous cough – This means coughing a lot for more than 1 hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you normally have a cough this may be worse than usual.
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed that you cannot smell or taste anything, or that things smell or taste different to usual.

### **Most people with COVID-19 have at least one of these symptoms.**

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID -19 should immediately self-isolate and have a PCR test. Their household members **DO NOT** need to isolate if they meet the exemption criteria (See criteria below). The individual with the suspected case and the household members not meeting the exemption criteria (See criteria below) should not attend their setting until 10 full days after the onset of their symptoms or if they subsequently receive a negative PCR result.

If anyone within a setting becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, high temperature or a loss or change to their normal taste or smell, the school will request that the individual is collected as soon as possible and/ or go home to isolate and book in for a PCR.





### What is a possible case?

Anyone who tests LFD positive following an assisted test or a home self-reported test is a possible case and requires a PCR test to confirm diagnosis. The confirmatory PCR test should be completed within two days of the positive lateral flow test. The possible case should isolate and have a PCR test as soon as possible and within 48 hrs of the positive LFD result. Household contacts should also isolate until the results of the PCR are reported unless they meet the criteria for self-isolation exemption (see table below). If the result of the confirmatory PCR is negative, then the possible case and their household contacts can stop isolating.

### What is a confirmed case?

A confirmed case is an individual who has received notification of a positive PCR test result.

### Contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19

A contact of a confirmed case is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact anytime from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms/tested positive if they do not have any symptoms, and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others. A contact can be:

- anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19

Anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:

- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to face conversation within one metre
- been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

Note: if someone has travelled in the same school bus as someone who tested COVID-19 positive a risk assessment may determine that they are not a contact depending on factors such as the spacing of seats, size of vehicle & ventilation.

Education settings are no longer required to complete contact tracing but should issue a **warn and inform letter** if it is known that there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a group which your child has had close contact. All close contacts who attend the setting and have mixed closely with a confirmed case will be advised to have a PCR.





### **Contacts who are not required to self-isolate**

You will not be required to self-isolate if you are notified you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- You are fully vaccinated
- You are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- You have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- You are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS test and trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of Covid-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible. Children aged 4 and under will not be advised to take a test unless the positive case was someone in their own household.

You should not arrange to have a PCR test if you have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19, as it is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

If you are identified as a contact but exempt from self – isolation you can help others by, alongside getting a PCR test;

- Limiting close contact with people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces.
- Wearing a face covering in situations where you are unable to maintain social distancing.
- Limiting contact with those who have underlying health conditions that places them at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.
- Taking part in twice weekly LFD testing.

This advice applies until 10 full days after your most recent contact with the person who has tested positive for Covid-19.

