

## COVID- 19 'Contact' Information November 2020

As part of our Risk Assessment we already take as many measures as we can in school to minimise contact, socially distance and regularly maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness. Undoubtedly, one of the issues facing schools, where there will continue to be a lot of children and adults sharing a relatively small space, is the fact that children and adults may have the virus but not show any symptoms and unwittingly spread the virus. We cannot mitigate every single possibility every minute of every day, but we take all steps that we possibly can. You as parents and carers have supported us greatly in our use of staggered start and finish times, keeping the number of adults on site to a minimum, socially distancing, not coming into the reception area unless necessary, wearing face coverings and leaving the site promptly at the beginning and the end of the day. Thank You.

As we are in a new period of national restrictions, we would hope to see a decline in cases in our areas as well as across the rest of the country and we all need to play our part to help minimise the spread of this disease.

When school is informed of a positive case, the Department for Education and the Health Protection Team try to ascertain who has had 'contact' with that person. A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID -19 from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For example, a contact can be:

- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
  - being coughed on
  - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
  - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

I have put together a poster which I hope explains this, you may find it useful, especially if you are explaining this to children.

### **What more can we all do together to further to help our school community?**

As a school:

- We continue to have in place our preventative measures identified in our Risk Assessment and review these measures regularly
- Staff and have not been **required** to wear face coverings in primary schools – see guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education> but we ask staff, contractors and visiting professionals to wear face coverings in corridors and communal adult areas.
- We have moved all non- school time meetings to online meetings where possible, and if meetings must take place in school, we apply the 2-meter distance rule, wear face coverings and ensure as much ventilation as is possible
- Staff are fully aware of the definition of a ‘contact’ both in school and in the wider community.

What can parents and carers do further to help?

- Continue to support us by keeping the number of adults on site to a minimum , socially distancing, not coming into the reception area unless necessary, wearing face coverings and leaving the site promptly at the beginning and the end of the day.
- Continue to keep pupils at home if they display symptoms of COVID -19 and ensure that a test is taken as soon as possible- then inform the school of the result
- Continue to follow government guidance if any member of your household displays symptoms of COVID -19 (see the flow chart on the school website)
- If possible consider how much pupils and adults from different class bubbles ‘mix’ before and after school, maybe in the park, on the way home, in each other’s houses, and be fully aware of the definition of a ‘contact’ as stated above.

## CORONAVIRUS – ‘CONTACT’ INFORMATION

Being a ‘contact’ of a person who has tested positive for COVID -19 means that you have been with them **2 days** before the person had symptoms up to **10 days** from when the symptoms started (this is when they are infectious to others) and you have been :

Living or staying in the same house as them for a long time



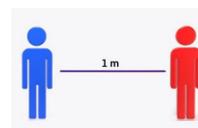
**Face-to-face (within one metre) with them** including:

being coughed on

having a face-to-face conversation within one metre

having skin-to-skin physical contact, or

contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact



**Within 2 metres of them for more than 15 minutes**



**Travelling in a small vehicle with them or in a large vehicle near them**

