



# Barrow CEVC Primary School

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Dear parents and carers

## Contact Tracing in Education and Childcare Settings – September 2021

One of the key changes that came into place from 19 July 2021 is that education and childcare settings will no longer be 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, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts. NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people 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.

Please see below updated guidance for self-isolating and testing from the start of the Autumn Term:

### Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating. If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating. 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 the education or childcare setting 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

1. **From 16 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).
2. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

If you have any questions regarding these arrangements please do contact the school office and a member of the leadership team will be in touch with you.

Kind regards

Helen Ashe  
Headteacher