

20th July 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

Contact tracing and self-isolation requirements for school staff and pupils

Until 19th July 2021, nurseries and primary schools in Trafford were operating a 'bubble' system both to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid, and to quickly identify any contacts of positive cases. It meant that anyone in the bubble would be asked to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of last contact with a positive case.

From 19th July the guidance on bubbles changes but until **16th August close contacts still need to be identified and to self-isolate, irrespective of age or vaccination status.**

Until the end of term, many nurseries and primary schools are still operating bubbles but will have more discretion over the identification of close contacts. However, the definition of a close contact has not changed. It includes anyone who, in the 2 days before the case became symptomatic or had a positive test result,

- has been within 2m of a case for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day) , or
- 1m for more than a minute, or
- has had direct physical contact with the case.

This means that, especially with younger children, it is highly likely that everyone who has been in the same room over those two days will be a close contact and will have to self-isolate.

As secondary school children do not spend as much time in a single group, the identification of close contacts has not been via a bubble system, but by tracking the close contacts of a case. This remains the case following the changes on 19th July.

Families will, therefore, still be told that their child needs to self-isolate when they are a contact of a case until the end of term. This notification may come from NHS Test and Trace, or from the school. While schools are no longer required to undertake contact tracing, in many cases they will continue to do so until the end of term, as they are well placed to identify the contacts.

From 16th August anyone under 18 yrs 4 months, and any fully vaccinated (plus 2 weeks) adult contact will not need to self-isolate but will be asked to take a PCR test. Cases will still be required to self-isolate.

Yours sincerely



Eleanor Roaf,
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