

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

As you are probably aware, the Prime Minister announced on July 12th that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on July 19th.

One of the key changes that will take place from July 19th is that schools 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. It also sets out relevant changes to the COVID-19 operational management systems at the school from September which are in line with recently revised national guidance. Parents / carers should particularly note the adjustment to the end of the school day with all students finishing at 3.30pm.

Self-isolating from July 19th – August 15th and taking a test from July 19th

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate. You should immediately order a PCR test for your child. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace 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, they and other members of the household should self-isolate. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), your child and other members of the household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace 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.

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.

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 re self-isolation.

6. You only need to notify school of a positive test if it occurs during school term time on covid@nsb.northants.sch.uk There is no requirement to notify the school of positive tests during the holiday period.

Self- isolation Periods from August 16th 2021

From August 16th, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children / parents & carers will be contacted by NHS Track Test and Trace, informed their child has been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if they are advised to do so. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Re: COVID-19 management arrangements for September at NSB **End of Term 6 - July 19th - 20th**

Other than the switch in contact tracing to NHS Track and Trace, the school will continue with its current operational measures and Risk Assessment for the last two days of the school term.

New Academic Year - September 2021

In line with DfE advice, all students (who consent to testing) will receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests 3-5 days apart on their return in the autumn term. Students who record a positive LFD test should self-isolate and should then be tested with a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Students will then be encouraged and given sufficient LFD test kits to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when the DfE will be reviewing this guidance.

Mr Edwards (Senior Deputy Headmaster) will write next week to all parents / carers with further information regarding the organisation of the LFD testing which will take place at the start of next term.

Students, staff and visitors must continue to not come into school if they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or if they have had a positive test result or if they are required to quarantine. In

these situations students must follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

Students displaying COVID-19 symptoms at school will be sent home to follow public health advice. Students, wherever possible who are displaying symptoms, should be collected by a member of their family or household.

Separation of bubbles (year groups) will no longer be required; however the school will maintain a structure to the school day and outbreak management plans which will enable it to quickly react to any Director of Health advice / direction to reintroduce bubbles for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

The school will continue to operate split break and lunch times so that the timetable can immediately support a bubble system if required on the direction of the Director of Health. Separated entry points will also be in operation as below, as this supports the general smooth running of the school. Year groups will continue to have their own designated eating and playing areas at break / lunch as this measure has yielded positive impact wider than minimising virus transmission.

Students should enter the school at 8.30am via:

- Year 7: Cripps Theatre Gate (opposite ONs)
- Year 8: Quad 'Tunnel' Gate
- Year 9: Bus Stop Gate
- Year 10: Cripps Theatre Gate (off Chipsey Avenue)
- Year 11: Quad 'Tunnel' Gate
- Year 12: Front 'red' doors
- Year 13: Front 'red' doors

Students in Years 7-12 should make their way directly to their Form Room on entry to the school. Students will not be permitted into school until 8.30am unless they are having breakfast or if they have early morning school sports provision.

Students, staff and visitors will not be expected to wear face coverings in school, although they may do so if they wish.

Students in Year 12 / 13 will be able to mix in Sixth Form designated areas. Sixth Formers will also be allowed to leave the school site via the front red doors (unless they are directed to stay in school due to academic underperformance) when they do not have lessons - including at lunchtime.

Students from different year groups will be permitted to mix for extra-curricular activities and any other relevant educational activity, including peer mentoring support / sports coaching and officiating.

School will finish for all students at 3.30pm.

All students should exit at the end of school via the Quad 'Tunnel' Gate, Theatre Gate (off Chipsey Avenue) or the Bus Stop Gate from September.

To encourage good hygiene, current Covid-19 mitigation hygiene measures will be maintained in the new academic year. Students will be encouraged to clean their hands regularly and hand sanitisers will be maintained outside of all classrooms. In line with the new national operational guidance for schools, students will also continue to support the regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces by cleaning their table at the beginning of a lesson with a harmless, non-toxic, non-hazardous and non-allergenic mild detergent. Teachers will spray each table and each student will wipe the table with a disposable cloth before taking their seat.

An updated Risk Assessment will be available on the school website before the start of the new term.

Any questions related to this update should be directed to Mr Kneeshaw (Years 7-11) mkneeshaw@nsb.northants.sch.uk or Mrs Bradley-Brophy (Years 11-13) sbradley-brophy@nsb.northants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Bernard". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Richard Bernard
Headmaster
Northampton School *for Boys*