



21 July 2021

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Changes to Contact Tracing

Thank you to all parents/carers who have been proactive in contacting the College with recent COVID-19 positive cases which has enabled us to act in accordance with DfE and Public Health England guidance on the self-isolating processes across close contact groups.

Following the Prime Minister announcing Step 4 of the roadmap on 19 July, there have been some important developments that all education settings are expected to follow throughout the summer holiday period and beyond. Therefore, we wish to share with you the following updates.

Track and Trace and Isolation

- As from midnight on **Sunday, 18 July** schools are no longer required to track and trace, and their legal powers to ask people to self-isolate have ceased.
- Contacts identified by the College prior to Monday, 19 July are still required to complete their ten day isolation period and the College will have contacted the relevant individuals accordingly.
- From **Monday, 19 July NHS Track and Trace** will contact the parents directly and ask them questions about contacts at home and in the community. They will not ask them about contacts at College.
- Schools will not be routinely contacted by Track and Trace to ask for information during this period, but they may be contacted if they are in an 'outbreak area' where there are high levels of community transmission or outbreaks in other settings, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.
- The legal requirement to self-isolate **does not change** on 19 July for individuals:
 - If they have been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact (changes from 16 August)
 - If they or someone in their household has tested positive with a PCR
 - If they or someone in their household is symptomatic
- From 19 July students who tested positive with a lateral flow device are still required to:
 - Self-isolate with their household members
 - Notify setting of a positive lateral flow device result
 - Seek a confirmatory PCR test within two days of the positive lateral flow test
 - Notify setting of their confirmatory PCR test result
 - If the PCR test is negative and taken within two days the self-isolation period will end for the individual and their household
 - If the PCR test is positive, full 10-days self-isolation must be completed by the student and household

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When the school are informed of a positive case

- While no longer required to contact trace, under the health and safety and duty of care regulations, schools are required to take appropriate action to protect students and staff. This includes those in relation to communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Under this guidance schools can require students who are close contacts of the positive case not to come into College.

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

During the summer holiday period

The main College administration support will be limited over the summer holidays and we therefore, cannot guarantee that messages left on the covidnotification@ivybridge.devons.ch.uk will be responded to during this period. Please contact NHS Track and Trace and seek further advice from the COVID-19 website if you require further support during this period.

Preparations for the return to College in September

As already published in more detail in the end of term [letter](#) (15 July 2021), all students will be offered two lateral flow tests (LFT) upon return from the summer holidays. Both tests will be done on-site at the College commencing from Thursday, 2 September in Year Group slots.

Current students are required to pre-book via epraise form 8.00am on Friday, 13 August 2021.

New students starting at the College in September are required to turn up during their allocated Year Group slot and we will run a 'first come, first served' system.

Please note the following guidance from the DfE for those students who have recently been tested positive for COVID-19:

Anyone who has previously received a **positive COVID-19 PCR test** result **should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test**, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If you receive a positive PCR test during the summer holidays please inform the College using covidnotification@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk. We will update our records accordingly when we commence booking our lateral flow testing appointments from Friday, 13 August.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done to support the College during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal