**Our Ref:** HTSA: parental letters/POS/JOD

**Date:** 25th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**CLOSE CONTACTS - Advice to Self-Isolate for 10 Days**

We have been informed that a member of our setting community had tested positive for COVID-19.

In line with national and local guidance we have checked to see if this person was in setting during their infectious period and also carried out a careful examination of this person’s movements and whereabouts during this time. From this we have been able to identify adults and children who were possible close contacts.

**Your child has been identified as being a close contact of the confirmed case of COVID-19 and now needs to self-isolate.**

In line with legal requirements and national guidance **you must now stay at home and self-isolate** **until midnight on** **Friday 2nd July** (10th day after contact). **Return to school on Monday 5th July, 2021.**

Please note that you will not necessarily be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and this letter is issued on behalf of Cheshire East Council acting under section 2(4)(c) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation) (England) Regulations 2020.

We are asking them to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

If they are well at the end of the 10 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities.

People who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 can now get a PCR test during their 10-day self-isolation period, whether or not they have symptoms

Tests can be booked using the national booking system at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

On the page headed ‘Why are you asking for a test?’ Please select ‘I have been told to get a test by my local council’

Around 1 in 5 people who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 will go on to have COVID-19 themselves, and around 1 in 3 of those will have no symptoms but can still spread the virus.

Getting a test when you’re a contact helps to find if you’re one of those people and, if so, to ensure your contacts are self-isolating. This is how we break the chains of transmission. Even if you test negative, you will still need to complete your 10-day self-isolation period, because the virus can incubate for that time.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19 within the 10 day self-isolation period.

The [Stay at home guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection) provides additional information, and is available in a range of translations.

Self-isolation means the child/staff member should

* Not go to setting, work or public places
* Not attend any other out of setting activities or go around to a friend’s house
* Not use public transport or taxis
* Not go out to shop – order it online or ask a friend to bring it to your home
* Not have visitors in your home except for people providing essential care
* Not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one
* Inform GP practice or hospital or other healthcare setting that they are self-isolating if they must attend in person

Further support for Self-Isolation can be found on the following link. [Self-Isolation Support Pack](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/covid-19/covid-19-self-isolation-support-pack.pdf)

**Self-Isolation Support Payments**

If, as a result of this isolation you will need to take time off work to supervise your child you may be eligible to a Test and Trace Support Payment of £500.

The eligibility criteria and application from are available on the following link: [Test and Trace Support Payment](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/test-and-trace-support-payment.aspx).

You can access Cheshire East People Helping People (PHP) if you need help because you're shielding, self-isolating or struggling due to the pandemic or because you have been asked to self-isolate.  PHP has a wide network of community-based support organisations and volunteers to help with things such as collecting prescriptions, doing your food shopping and addressing additional support needs (such as mental health and finances).  You can also use this facility to source information and be signposted to other Council services.  You can self-refer online at [People Helping People](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/cheshire-east-people-helping-people.aspx) or contact via telephone 0300 123 5034.

**Remote Learning**

During isolation your child will be supported to continue their education via remote learning.

Yours sincerely



D Postlethwaite

Headteacher