

The Skylark Partnership

Policy and procedures in response to infection of Covid-19 amongst TSP communities - January 2021

TSP settings will take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended any site has tested positive for coronavirus.

TSP settings will contact their local health protection team. Note this team will also contact TSP settings directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for C-19 attended the settings - as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious and ensure that they are asked to self-isolate or if they are willing to participate in the serial testing using the lateral flow tests..

The local health protection team will work with us if we find ourselves in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on this advice, we will either send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, and advise them to self isolate for 10 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious or offer them the serial testing in order to support them remaining in school.

Close contact is defined as:

- Direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin to skin)
- Proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- Travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person.

It is the health protection team who will provide definitive advice on the correct course of action. In order to support them to do this, TSP settings will keep a record of pupils and staff in each bubble/group, and any close contact that takes place between children and staff in different bubbles/groups (this should just be in note form and proportionate). We do not need to ask pupils to record everyone that they have spent time with each day, nor ask staff to keep onerous definitive records.

A template letter will be provided by the health protection team to send to parents and staff if required.

TSP settings will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus unless essential to protect others.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home/participating in serial testing do not need to self isolate themselves unless the child/young person/staff member who is self isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If they do develop symptoms within their 10 day isolation period they should follow the 'stay at home' guidance. They should also get a test and:

- If the test is negative, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10 day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the C-19 within the remaining days
- If the test is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must self isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean that the self isolation ends before or after the original 10 day isolation periods). Their household should self isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home' guidance.

TSP settings will not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before welcoming staff or pupils back after a period of self isolation.

Containing any outbreaks

If any TSP settings have 2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where C-19 is suspected, we may have an outbreak. The setting will continue to work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, the health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self isolate at home as a precautionary measure: this could be the whole site or bubble. If an outbreak is confirmed in a setting, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who have been in contact with the person who has tested positive.

At Hospital and Outreach AP Academy, if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, it will be reported to the Local Authority Health and Safety team, providing the headlines of what has happened and the actions which have been taken to mitigate risk. The email address to use is: Health&Safety@northamptonshire.gov.uk