

Parent / Carer

Children, Families and Education Director: Alison Jeffery

Core 5, Floor 2 Civic Offices Guildhall Square Portsmouth PO1 2EA

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> schools are not required to carry out contact tracing where someone has tested positive for coronavirus. This will be done instead by the local public health team. Given pressures on that team at the moment it may take them a few days to get in touch with contacts however. You will appreciate that we want to minimise the chance of children becoming infected in the last week of term. Where schools are aware that a child has been a close contact of someone testing positive, therefore, we have asked them to get in touch with parents and ask them not to send their child to school for the last week/few days of term. We are aware that this will be very disappointing for those families. We should be very grateful for your cooperation, however, so that we can keep infection down in the city and in particular avoid an outbreak in a school. The school will of course let you know about arrangements for remote learning for this period.

Schools will not themselves ask your child to self-isolate, but if they are identified as a close contact by the local public health team (Test and Trace) they may be contacted and asked to do that.

If your child is of secondary school age we would encourage your child to continue with twice weekly LFD testing.

Please keep a close eye on your child and arrange a PCR test immediately if they show symptoms of coronavirus (persistent cough, high temperature, loss of sense of taste or smell) or are otherwise unwell.

Thank you very much for your help and very best wishes

Yours sincerely

Helen Atkinson
Director of Public Health

Alison Jeffery

Ahri Veffen

Director of Children, Families and Education