

SHOEBURYNESS HIGH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms Clare Costello

Friday 25th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

New COVID-19 guidance was released by the Government on the morning of the 24th of February and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

Specific guidance for schools and educational settings can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056991/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf

There are two key areas of change in guidance that we would want to make you aware of from today.

- 1) The government have updated advice on the 'Testing of close contacts and isolation'
- 2) The actions that individuals should take when they have symptoms or a positive test

Tracing of contacts and isolation:

There are no changes in the arrangements in 'Test and Trace' for schools and education settings, only for individuals in the community.

*"Public health advice for people with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from **24 February**. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended."*

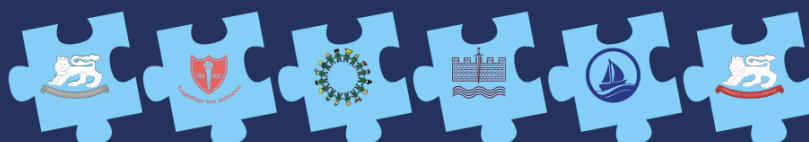
We will therefore continue to have no role in notification of contacts.

Actions individuals should take if they develop Covid-19 symptoms or have a positive test:

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow the government guidance for people with COVID-19. If they develop Covid-19 symptoms or have a positive test for Covid-19, they should be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days or until the 10th day.

"The most effective way to avoid passing on COVID-19 infection is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people."

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The guidance goes on to say:

“In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the 3 key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.”

Therefore, despite it no longer being law that your child isolates following a positive test or showing symptoms, SECAT will be taking the decision that your child needs to remain at home, following both Government and Public Health England guidance.

We want as far as is possible to prevent the further spread of the virus. We also want to prevent any school closure, partial closure, the return to face masks or any other of the possible responses that Public Health England can still instruct schools to follow should an outbreak occur.

We therefore, ask parents and carers to follow the guidance as closely as possible, in the interests of all.

There are currently no other changes to the previously issued government and Public Health England guidance.

I would like to remind you that school attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age, and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Therefore, your child should be attending school unless they are not well enough to attend or they test positive for COVID 19 as in the guidance above.

SECAT and the School will continue to keep parents and carers as up to date as possible with any further changes to arrangements.

Thank you once again for all the support that you continue to provide in supporting your child's education, which remains paramount at this time.

Kindest regards,

Ms Costello
Headteacher