



SMA/rsh

Wednesday, 16 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Information for Parents regarding COVID19 Contact Tracing over the Christmas Holiday period**

I am writing to clarify the expectations around reporting cases of COVID-19 and undertaking contact tracing over the Christmas holiday period.

As you know schools have played a vital role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 over the last 9 months. One way in which they have done this is by undertaking contact tracing on behalf of the Essex Contact Tracing team. They identify any individuals who have been in close contact at school with someone who has tested positive for COVID19, during the time that is considered the contagious period. This is from 2 days (48 hours) before the person's symptoms are displayed. Those individuals are then required to self-isolate for 10 days because they are at risk of having contracted COVID-19 and being contagious themselves.

This contact tracing will not be taking place in the usual way during the Christmas break when schools are closed and there is less chance of school-based contacts existing. However, should your child test positive at any time over the Christmas break please email the school directly via [admin@boswells-school.com](mailto:admin@boswells-school.com) We will then establish if the student has been in close contact within the specified time with any other students or staff, and inform them of the need to self-isolate.

Please follow the guidance below from Essex County Council referring to dealing with COVID symptoms and positive results over the Christmas period. If there is any doubt, please email the school directly via [admin@boswells-school.com](mailto:admin@boswells-school.com) and someone will endeavor to respond as soon as practicable.

#### **Essex County Council Guidance**

##### **If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of being in school**

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. ***You should let your school know that this has occurred.***

The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, you must inform your school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

**If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school**

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, (**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec onwards**) you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/)

***You should contact the school if your child will be absent, in time for the first day of the new term.***

**If your child has no symptoms of COVID-19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school**

It is important to follow the guidance around accessing a test only when the individual is showing signs of COVID19. However, if your child is asymptomatic and returns a positive test result within 48 hours of last being in school, please let the school know straight away.

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



**Stephen Mansell**  
Headteacher