

## Important information for educational settings - January 2022

This information has been put together by Southend Health Protection Team to assist educational settings with recent changes, updates, and requirements.

### Testing guidelines

Asymptomatic testing remains important. Pupils with a positive LFD test should self-isolate, and then take a PCR test.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of a positive LFD test and is negative, this overrides the LFD test, and the individual may return to school.

Pupils with symptoms should not attend an educational setting. If a parent or carer insists on a child or young person attending, attendance may be refused in line with local public health advice.

#### **Latest guidance for positive cases:**

The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD (Lateral Flow Device) tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. Results of lateral flow tests should be recorded [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

**This advice is for vaccinated people, those unvaccinated will still have to continue with a 10 day isolation period and take an LFD test prior to returning if negative.**

#### **Latest guidance for close contacts**

Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Please see the latest guidance: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

### Contact Tracing and Isolation

#### **The role of the national NHS Test & Trace (T&T) team**

The national NHS Test and Trace Team will try to contact all positive cases during the first 32 hours using text messages, email or phone.

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts at their workplace, school, or any other venues they have visited recently.

The NHS T&T team will contact any contacts that the positive case has given them. Vaccination statuses are automatically cross-checked with the NHS database so the contact tracers can give the correct self-isolation advice.

Where they are not able to make contact within 32 hours, the national NHS Test and Trace Team will refer the case to the local Southend contact tracing service.

### **The role of the Southend contact tracing service**

The Southend contact tracing service make follow up calls with any cases that the national NHS Test and Trace Team have been unable to contact. They offer support and give the correct self-isolation advice.

Please refer to the latest guidance to determine whether a contact needs to self-isolate or not: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

### **Test and Trace Support Payments**

Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years will no longer be advised to self-isolate if they are a close contact. However, if the child tests positive and is advised to self-isolate from NHS Test and Trace then the parents can still claim from this scheme if they are unable to work from home.

#### **Criteria**

To qualify for a £500 one off payment under the scheme the child or young person must have been notified to self-isolate by either

- the NHS Test and Trace Service
- notification through their NHS Covid 19 App

They must also meet the below:

- the child or young person's period of isolation started after the 8 March 2021
- you have 42 days from the start date of your child's isolation to submit your application
- the child is aged 15 or under or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC), who normally attends an education or childcare setting
- you must be employed, or self-employed, unable to work as you have to care for the child, and will lose income as a result

If you receive one of the following Benefits you could receive a payment from the Main Scheme; Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit

If you do not receive one of the above stated benefits you could receive a payment from the Council's Discretionary Scheme.

You do not need to identify which scheme you are applying for, as you will automatically be considered for both.

All information and guidance about the scheme can be found at [Financial Support : Test and Trace Support Payment – A guide to Test and Trace – Southend-on-Sea Borough Council](#)

If you wish to contact the team, please email on [elfforessex@southend.gov.uk](mailto:elfforessex@southend.gov.uk)

The phone number for the team is 01702 215841, however our phone lines are extremely busy so please email where possible and we will always be happy to telephone you back if you provide contact details

This link is our 'Just about Managing Page' that maybe useful for some families that could be facing financial hardship during this time

[Just About Managing – Southend-on-Sea Borough Council](#)

### **Prioritising education**

The impacts of having missed education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.