

# Hamstel Infant School and Nursery approach to using the NHS COVID-19 app

Here's how we will approach the use of the NHS coronavirus contact tracing app in our school.

## What is it?

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The app is part of the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak. It's designed to support the NHS [Test and Trace programme](#) by making it easier to trace people who have been in 'close contact' with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. It sends alerts to those close contacts and tells them to self-isolate.

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## Who can use it?

We're encouraging as many staff as possible to use the app – this is because our school will benefit the most from the app if a significant number of people are using it each day.

If you're using the app, let the school know by emailing the school office. This is so we can keep a record of who is using the app and get the most benefit out of it.

Pupils do not bring mobile phones to school so will not be expected to use the app because it also only for people aged 16 and over.

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## How does it work?

You need to have Bluetooth switched on for the app to work. This is so it can measure the distance, over time, between people who are using the app.

It has 6 features:

- › **Trace:** this will alert you if you've been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. While it's calculated by an algorithm, "close contact" here generally means within 2 metres for 15 minutes or more.
- › **Alert:** this shows you the risk level in your area
- › **Check in:** you can check into locations by scanning QR codes. We won't need staff to do this when arriving at school
- › **Symptoms:** you can check your symptoms against government guidance and get advice
- › **Test:** you can order a free test and receive the result through the app, along with advice
- › **Isolate:** if you need to self-isolate, you get an isolation "companion", counting down the days you still have to isolate and giving you advice

To find out more about how the app works, visit the [support page](#) – [covid19.nhs.uk](https://www.covid19.nhs.uk)

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## How will it affect our school's coronavirus response process?

The app won't change our process for responding to positive cases of coronavirus, our response process involves asking staff or pupils to:

- self-isolate while testing is being acquired if they have had close contact with someone who has coronavirus symptoms who is awaiting testing
- self-isolate for 14 days if they have been in close prolonged contact with someone with symptoms who has gone on to test positive for coronavirus
- self-isolate until a negative test result is received if they or a close contact they live with has taken a test due to coronavirus symptoms and is waiting for their test result
- self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days if they receive a positive test result for coronavirus

We know that not all staff will use the app, and our existing process doesn't rely on it.

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## When do I need to pause the app?

You should **only** pause the contact tracing feature (at the bottom of the app screen) when:

- You're not able to have your phone with you, for example because it's in a storage space
- You're fully protected from other people, for example behind a perspex screen

Pausing the app in these situations will make sure that the app doesn't accidentally alert you when, for example, someone who's tested positive has been in close contact with your phone but not you.

When you pause contact tracing, it asks you when you'd like to be reminded to switch it back on.

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## When can we check the app on our phones during the day?

During working hours your phone will be in your locker or class cupboard or office space. At these times you will need to pause the app as the chance of contacts with others using the app is very limited. Your journey to and from work and where you go off site to collect a lunch may put you into contact with others, at these times you may choose to un-pause the app so that it can track those contacts. Lunch time, break time and the end of the day would be an appropriate time to check the app for possible alerts.

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## What happens if a staff member gets a notification to self-isolate?

Staff must inform the Headteacher and the school office that they need to leave school to self-isolate because they have received a notification via the app that they have been a contact.

- Where cover supervisors are available they will be asked to cover in classes that are still in school

If multiple staff members receive a notification to self-isolate and class can not be covered by alternative staff the school will put in place its contingency home learning arrangements.

In the event of a local lockdown or where a class or a year group is sent home each class or year group will be given access to:

- A online platform link via either seesaw or tapestry to home learning resources

- Recorded lessons delivered by teachers in each year group
  - Regular challenge activities via a website link and other links to online learning activities and resources from Oak academy, BBC bite size,
  - An exercise book, pencil and other link paper based resources
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## What happens if someone tests positive for coronavirus?

The app will ask for permission to alert anyone who's been in close contact with them. When the app notifies these other people, it doesn't tell them who the positive case is or where the contact took place, although it's likely to have been in the past 1 to 2 days.

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## Will we make visitors use the app's check-in feature?

Only visitors who are spending time within the school site will be expected to use the app.

All visitors are signed in by the school office staff and complete a Visitors Declaration.

Visitors who have the NHS app will be made aware of the location of the QR code and will be encouraged to scan it when they arrive at the site. The QR code is displayed in three different locations within the school; the school reception area, the nursery and on the door of the back entrance near the site office.

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## Where can we find more information about the app?

For more information and support about the NHS COVID-19 app, please visit <https://covid19.nhs.uk/>.

### Sources

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders, based on the following government guidance. All information is correct as of 8 October 2020.

- [Use of the NHS COVID-19 app in schools and FE colleges](#), GOV.UK – DfE