## Letter template: children in close contact

Dear Parent,

**Advice for Children close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases**

We have been advised that there has been a [small number of] confirmed case (s) of COVID-19 within [Insert year and school, or early years setting)

We have identified that your child may have been in close contact with the affected case. In line with the local guidance we recommend that your child has a PCR test (if they have not tested positive in the last 90 days). Please book online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Your child can continue normal activities whilst awaiting the PCR result, [including attending the school/setting] unless they develop symptoms. Please see advice for symptomatic individuals below. However, whilst awaiting the PCR result we recommend your child takes a daily lateral flow test before attending school/setting.

[REMOVE IF FIRST LETTER: If your child has no symptoms and has already had a PCR test as a result of a recent letter from the school/setting, you may consider **one further PCR** test 4-7 days following receipt of this letter. Otherwise, it is recommended that you continue with regular twice weekly lateral flow testing as a minimum.]

In addition to the PCR test, we are advising children and parents to undertake lateral flow tests twice weekly as a minimum (unless they have tested positive in the last 90 days) [if acceptable to parents in EY settings]. For information regarding access to lateral flow tests see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Should the PCR (or any lateral flow testing) yield a positive result, we would ask that your child isolate, with your household, and follow national “Stay at Home” guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. If you need support with isolation, please contact your local Council [For Coventry the contact is 08085 834 333. For Warwickshire the contact is 0800 408 1447]

Please see below guidance for if your child/anyone in the household develops COVID-19 symptoms.

**What to do if you/your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature and/or
* a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If anyone in the household develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. This should be an NHS PCR test taken at a test site and **NOT** a rapid test taken at a community testing site (an LFT test). Household members of the symptomatic individual who are over 18 years and 6 months and **not fully vaccinated**, must also stay at home whilst awaiting the PCR result - they should not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by ringing 119 or booking online: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

When the result of the test is known further advice will be available.

**How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

* wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
* use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
* wash your hands as soon as you get home
* cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
* put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

**Further information**

Further information is available at nhs.uk/coronavirus

Yours sincerely

Headteacher/Early Years Setting manager/Public Health Warwickshire (latter for Warks cases)