

14th October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for your continued support during this half term, as we have welcomed children back to our schools. We have been delighted to see our schools busy and bustling again.

Following the latest Government announcement on Monday 12th October, we have some updates to share with you.

Local COVID Alert Levels

Sheffield has been placed in the High alert level, and additional restrictions will be introduced from Wednesday 14th October. A link to all of the latest guidance is included further in this letter.

We want to assure you that **schools will remain open to all children**. We continue to follow guidance from the Department for Education and Sheffield Council, and have a range of measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission of infection.

School Track and Trace – Isolation Update

The latest government advice for schools is to send home people who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for Covid-19.

In our secondary schools we will no longer be isolating a whole year group or class. We will instead identify contacts and inform them that they need to isolate.

In our primary schools, close contacts will usually be the whole class, but not a whole year group.

What is the definition of a contact?

A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, from 2 days before the person was symptomatic, up to 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

This includes:

- A person who has had contact (face-to-face, direct physical, or coughed on), at a distance of 1 meter, with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 (this will include times where a face mask or covering has been worn)

- A person who has had contact, at a distance of 2 meters and for 15 minutes or more, with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- Travelling in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

How will we identify contacts?

In a classroom setting we are using seating plans to identify contacts. As children move around the school, we will use observation by staff who are on duty.

We will also be requesting that children and parents/carers inform us of anyone else they have been in contact with, if a child becomes symptomatic.

Are schools using the NHS Test and Trace App?

Government guidance states that students and educational staff can use the NHS Test and Trace App if they wish to and if they follow the guidance set out in <https://faq.covid19.nhs.uk/>

The following guidance is taken from the NHS Covid-19 FAQs:

Can my child use the NHS COVID-19 app?

If your child is aged 16 or over, they can download and use the app.

Although those aged 16 and over can use the app in education settings, the main benefit is outside that, when they are socialising, using public transport, or in a public space.

If a 16 or 17-year-old receives an alert through the app, they should notify a trusted adult. When they are in an education setting, this trusted adult should be a member of staff who will then follow official guidelines.

What about where my child's mobile phone is required to be left in a locker or bag or in communal area?

It is recommended by the NHS that pupils pause contact tracing whilst on the premises under these circumstances, to avoid the app misidentifying close contacts. When someone switches it off, the app will give the user the option to set a reminder for 4, 8 or 12 hours, after which they will receive a notification to remind them to switch contact tracing back on.

What can you do to help us?



Keep up to date with the latest guidance

- Help your child to understand what they need to do to stay safe
- Only bring your child to school if they are well with no symptoms
- Follow the isolation guidelines if you are contacted by NHS Track and Trace



Registered address: Tapton School Academy Trust, Darwin Lane, Sheffield, S10 5RG
 Tel: 0114 267 1414 Email: enquiries@taptonttrust.org.uk Web: www.taptonttrust.org.uk

Charitable Limited Company Registration Number: 07697171.
 Registered office: England and Wales. VAT Number: 134392225.

- Book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms
- Tell us if your child or anyone in the household has a positive Covid-19 test
- Provide us with details of anyone you or your child have been in close contact with, if you were to test positive for Covid-19.

Links to the latest national and local guidance are available on the trust website <https://www.taptontrust.org.uk/covid19>



Getting to school

- Walk or cycle where possible
- Wear school uniform
- Only one member of the household to bring the child to school
- Maintain social distancing
- Ensure your child wears a face mask on school or public transport (children aged 12 or over)
- Don't let your child eat or drink on public transport
- Don't bring toys or other items from home.



Arriving at school

- Arrive at the correct time
- Students should wear a face mask when entering the school, and in corridors and communal areas (children aged 12 or over)
- Parents must not enter school – apart from a prearranged meeting
- Students should not leave school at lunchtimes.



After school

- Arrive at the correct pick up time
- Maintain social distancing
- Remind your child about handwashing.



Who to contact if I have concerns?

- Your school office or headteacher.

Yours Sincerely,

D. Dennis

David Dennis, CEO Tapton School Academy Trust



Registered address: Tapton School Academy Trust, Darwin Lane, Sheffield, S10 5RG
Tel: 0114 267 1414 Email: enquiries@taptontrust.org.uk Web: www.taptontrust.org.uk

Charitable Limited Company Registration Number: 07697171.
Registered office: England and Wales. VAT Number: 134392225.