

## **Managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 over the Christmas holidays**

Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of term in which schools and further education providers will be asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.

The last day the school will complete the contact tracing process will be Wednesday 23rd December. The testing email address will not be monitored from 2pm on this date. After this date, the school will not play a role in any contact tracing, and parents and carers should engage with NHS test and trace.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms or tests positive during the school holidays:**

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends (i.e between 18th and 23rd December), if your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms during term time or within 48 hours of being in school (between Thursday 17th December 2.30pm and Saturday 19th December 2.30pm), you should contact the school on covid@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk and we will then alert the close contacts to the individual who may have been infectious whilst in school. This email inbox will be checked each afternoon at 2pm from 18th – 23rd of December, inclusive of weekends.
- If your child develops symptoms more than 48 hours after being in school (after 2.30pm on Saturday 19th December), and then tests positive, you do not need to contact the school. You should follow contact tracing instructions via NHS Test and Trace.
- If your child is required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case but they themselves have not tested positive, you do not need to inform the school. If this isolation continues into the new term then please inform us on Monday 4th January and please do not send your child into school. Please report via our normal absence procedures.

The school will continue to complete the test and trace process for all reported cases during the first 6 days of the holiday when the infectious period has occurred on school days. **Where necessary we will identify close contacts to any confirmed case and inform all identified close contacts to isolate for the advised number of days from last known contact with a positive case.**

This means that we may be contacting you in the coming days, or into the holidays to notify you that your child is a close contact, please keep checking your email for any communication from school. Whilst we hope we do not have to inform anyone that they should be isolating over the holidays, the safety of the school and our wider community is our highest priority and we will continue to follow all government guidance with regards to self-isolation.

Once we return to school on 4<sup>th</sup> January, please continue to report any positive cases to our attendance team.