



# St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP    [www.spexe.org](http://www.spexe.org)    (01392) 204 764    [school@spexe.org](mailto:school@spexe.org)

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued encouragements and prayers in these trying times.

Sadly, as predicted by Public Health we have had further need for members of our community to self-isolate this week. I recognise the inconvenience and frustration this causes for us all and thank you for your support. Having spoken with Public Health it seems inevitable that there will be further positive covid cases next week so please do be extra vigilant. If you or anyone in your family is presenting with the following **please do not come to school**:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

## Next Week

Just a reminder from last weeks letter that we will continue to work in year group bubbles. We think this is the safest and most responsible approach, considering the large rise in covid cases.

It will be vital to continue to inform the school via [covid@spexe.org](mailto:covid@spexe.org) of any positive lateral flow tests or PCR tests. This is in line with government guidance. As a school we will continue to work with agencies such as Public Health and Devon County Council to do our best to provide the most responsible and safest approach for you, our families, as well as our staff. **This means we may need to tell students and staff to not be in school**, we trust that this will ultimately make for a safer, healthier community as well as support you all to have a covid safe holiday.

As you already know learning enrichment week is not going ahead in its usual format. Governors made a well informed but hard decision to cancel learning enrichment week but the rising number of covid cases is proving it to be a very wise decision. Staff in all subjects have developed approaches for next week that aim to enrich students experience in each subject. Other than some occasions where curriculum and assessment processes need to be completed all subjects will be providing a slightly different feel to learning next week. These will of course operate within our covid risk assessments. Full engagement in learning and all the usual school rules will apply so that the strong routines we have established continue to be built on with learning the priority.

## Track and Trace and Isolation

- From 11.59 on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July schools no longer have a role in track and trace and their legal powers to ask people to isolate will end.
- Contacts identified within settings prior to 19<sup>th</sup> July **will still be required to complete their ten day isolation period.**

*Life to the full for everyone.'*





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- From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> NHS Track and Trace will contact the parents and ask them questions about contacts at home and in the community. They will not ask them about contacts at school, but they will ask parents to inform the school.
- Parents and pupils are still required to report all positive tests LFD and PCR to schools as they have the results. In our case this means contacting us using [covid@spexe.org](mailto:covid@spexe.org).
- Schools will not be routinely contacted by track and trace to ask for information, but they may be contacted if they are in an 'outbreak area' where there are high levels of community transmission, outbreaks in other settings as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.
- The legal requirement to self-isolate **does not change** on 19<sup>th</sup> July for individuals:
  - If they have been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact (changes from 16<sup>th</sup> August awaiting clarification)
  - If they or someone in their household has tested positive with a PCR
  - If they or someone in their household is symptomatic
- From the 19<sup>th</sup> July students who test positive with an LFD are still required to
  - Self isolate with their household members
  - Notify setting of a positive LFD result
  - Seek a confirmatory PCR test within 2 days of the positive LFD
  - Notify setting of their confirmatory PCR test result
  - If PCR test is negative and taken within 2 days the isolation period will end for the individual and their household
  - If the PCR test is positive the full 10 days isolation must be completed by pupil and household.

## When the school are informed of a positive case

- Schools must continue to inform the local authority
- While no longer required to contact trace, under the health and safety duty of care regulations schools are required to take appropriate action to protect pupils and staff; This includes those in relation to communicable diseases such as COVID. Under this guidance schools can require pupils who are close contacts of the positive case not to come into school. This however does not mean that the person needs to self-isolate but it is recommended that they limit their contact with others during the identified period.
- Devon County Council will support schools who take action to carry out their duty of care in this way and to continue with the contact tracing arrangements they have in place until the end of term.
- The Devon Public Health and education teams will continue to support schools

## Government Guidance - Testing

*Following the announcements on Step 4 this week, we are asking secondary schools and colleges to test all students at an on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS) on return following the summer holidays. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help us break chains of transmission in education settings after the summer holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people. We are asking these tests to be carried out on site as testing participation rates amongst students via ATS are much higher than when testing at home.*

*We are also asking that schools and colleges encourage students to continue twice-weekly testing at home for the rest of this term and in the autumn, following the two initial on-site tests. All the education workforce should also continue to test – twice-weekly at home – on return in the autumn term. We will review the continued need for testing, based on public health advice at the end of September.*



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*The measures we will have after summer, including testing, strike the right balance as we learn to live with the virus so children can continue in face-to-face education. The evidence on which our autumn testing policies are based can be found via the following link:*

[Evidence summary: COVID-19 – children, young people and education settings](#)

## **Staggered Start to Autumn Term**

The reason for the staggered start is that we need to follow government guidelines on mass testing all students before they return to school for the autumn term.

More details will follow as soon as possible next week but it is likely to mean that some year groups will be asked to test on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September as well as later in the week.

This will also mean only some Year groups will be able to start term on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September and others later in the same week. We will share the details as soon as we can next week.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall  
Headteacher