

# The Topsham School

A love of learning and commitment to the success of every child at the heart of all we do



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Dear Parents/Carers

I am working through risk assessment and need to share the following information in regards to 'Close Contacts' of someone who has tested positive for CV19:

## Close Contact requirements

Individuals identified as close contacts are not required to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- they are **fully vaccinated** (e.g. at least 2 weeks after second dose)
- they are below the age of **18 years and 6 months**
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Close contacts who are not required to isolate will be **advised** to:

- take a **PCR** test (do not need to isolate whilst awaiting result but will need to isolate as a case if positive)
- **limit close contact** with others outside their household
- wear a **face covering** in enclosed spaces
- limit contact with **clinically extremely vulnerable**
- participate in twice weekly **LFD** testing if eligible

In line with this guidance, any of our children who have been in close contact with a positive case of CV19 may continue to attend the setting as long as they are not showing signs and symptoms themselves. As you will see, the advice is for a close contact to take a PCR test.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August, Devon and the neighbouring authorities Torbay, Plymouth, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly were designated as an enhanced response area by the government because COVID-19 case rates are so high. The number of cases are rising again nationally, and in Devon, they are far higher (622 per 100,000 of the population) than the latest national average (332).



Positive cases remain mostly in the late teen and young adult age group, and socialising appears to be the main driver. Case rates in all eight district areas of Devon are among the highest in the country.

Devon already work with our neighbouring authorities, Public Health England and NHS Devon, but the enhanced response area designation means that they are now also working with the government to see what else can be done to reduce Devon's coronavirus case rate.

Their advice to everyone is as follows:

- limiting your social contacts to stop the virus spreading
- meeting others outside, because that's safer than meeting inside
- continuing to wear face coverings when indoors in public places
- washing your hands properly and regularly
- testing yourself regularly with [rapid lateral flow device tests](#)
- [having the COVID-19 vaccine](#) when offered
- [self-isolating](#) and [arranging a PCR test](#) if you show any symptoms of coronavirus or you are told to by NHS Test and Trace

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding. I will ensure that I share further information with you as soon as I can.

Kind regards

Mrs Pipe