

**Step 4 (19th July)****Bubbles**

- With Step 4 of the roadmap on July 19th, the DfE no longer recommend that bubbles are kept, although schools may continue with existing measures until the end of the term.
- Note however, the change for pupil close contacts of a confirmed positive case requiring to self-isolate does not happen until the August 16th.
- If you abandon the school bubble model and therefore children mix more (before August 16th), you may find that even larger numbers of pupils and staff need to self-isolate if a confirmed case is identified in school.
- I would therefore highly recommend that schools continue with the “bubble model” until the end of this term.

**Other Measures**

- I recommend that you continue all the hygiene, social distancing and limiting visitor measures until the end of this term. In particular take opportunities to teach outside and keep classrooms well ventilated.
- You may wish to change the classroom layout back to group work teaching

**Test and Trace**

- On the 19th July, schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing and asking close contacts to self-isolate. This will be taken over by NHS Test and Trace. However, they will no doubt require some information from schools to assist them on a case by case basis.
- The categories of persons that Test and Trace will ask to self-isolate remain the same until 16th August (i.e. *all close contacts*)
- Please continue to request PCR test results from parents as this will help you identify the number of cases within your school, and you will be able to share this information with staff within their class. The school should encourage any members of staff who have close contact with positive cases to go for PCR tests as soon as possible, rather than waiting for Test and Trace to contact.
- Encourage parents to continue reporting the results of any lateral flow tests that any members of their household are completing via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> Parents should continue to obtain confirmatory PCR tests when anyone has a positive (or two void) lateral flow tests.

**Vulnerable Adults**

- Department of Health and Social Care [guidance](#) was issued last night (12<sup>th</sup> July)
- It states:
  - As restrictions will be eased following the move to Step 4 of the Roadmap, we will be advising **clinically extremely vulnerable people**, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else.
  - From 19 July, social distancing measures will be ended in the workplace and it will no longer be necessary for the Government to instruct people to work from home.
  - However, employers still have a legal responsibility to protect their employees and others from risks to their health and safety. Your employer should be able to explain to you the measures they have in place to keep you safe at work.
- I will be in conversation with HR to discuss what individual risk assessment requirements will be necessary for Step 4. In any event, I advise any changes should only apply from September, please continue to use existing risk assessments until the end of this term.

**August 16th**

- **Double vaccinated people** will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If someone gets their second dose just before, or after, the 16th of August, they'll need to wait until two weeks after they get the second jab so the vaccine has time to build the maximum possible protection.
- **Children under the age of 18 years old** will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.
- **Children who are aged under 5 years old** who are identified as close contacts would only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in **their own household**

**From September 2021**

- Bubble system ends (if not already)
- Control measures will be covered in whole school risk assessment version 6 which will also reference the individual risk assessment requirements. This will be issued shortly.
- Although schools will longer be undertaking contact tracing, they will continue to ask parents to keep at home / send pupils home where they show one or more of the covid symptoms (ignore others). These three main symptoms defined by the NHS have not changed, but may do in the future. As society opens up fully and there is more mixing, it is possible that there may be many more "ordinary" infections being transmitted. Whereas pre-covid, pupils with these symptoms would remain in school if they otherwise feel well enough, they will obviously now need to self-isolate and arrange a PCR test as you have been doing this year.
- Although double vaccinated staff will not need to automatically self-isolate when coming into contact with a positive case, we must still be concerned about the risk of transmission and that staff would have to self-isolate if they contract covid. Please consider this and the local transmission levels in your planning for your Inset days. Also consider any personal welfare worries that staff may have if you intend having a whole or large groups of staff meeting in your hall as they not have met in this manner for months due to the pandemic.