



MCX/RHt

7th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In response to the announcement yesterday regarding the case of Covid-19 at Sutton Community Academy, we have sought extensive advice and can issue the following response from the Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager at Nottinghamshire County Council:

- If the child became symptomatic late on Sunday night/early Monday morning, that means that, they would not have been infectious at 3.15pm on Friday. The original DfE advice not to send any contacts/bubbles home was accurate. Current evidence indicates that the infectious period begins around 48 hours before symptom onset.
- Re: the guidance about sending a cohort/bubble home to self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with a positive case – the positive case isolates for 10 days to let the virus heal and they are then no longer infectious (as long as they no longer have a fever), but others who have been exposed need a longer period to self-isolate (14 days) as they may be incubating the virus and it may take several days for it to manifest itself. Indeed, they may have no symptoms at all and still be infectious to others.
- The 10-day self-isolation for an infected person begins from symptom onset, not from test result. If asymptomatic, then it begins from the date of the test itself. If they were asymptomatic, tested positive, and thereafter proceed to develop symptoms, then the 10-day self-isolation re-starts.
- The 14-day self-isolation period for contacts of the positive case starts from last exposure (or contact) with the positive case. If during that time, the contact themselves develops symptoms, then their own 10-day self-isolation period begins from the day of symptom onset (even if they are on day 14 of the previous self-isolation).
- The self-isolation rules are explained at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

I hope this clears up any concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mary Cox'.

Mary Cox
Interim Principal