

## Test and Trace

Schools are in a very difficult situation. The tracing process of 'Test and Trace' is made more difficult as schools are public authorities. They have a legal duty to protect and promote the welfare of pupils and a duty of care to staff. It is hoped that additional government guidance will be provided for schools.

As a private individual, compliance with the scheme is optional, you cannot at the present time be forced to provide details. As a school it is more complicated.

If a person in a school has Covid or symptoms they will be sent home as will other people in school who have had contact and who may be at risk.

In school it would be most unusual for any one person to know the details of everyone else who may be affected. It is only the school that will have that data. We would notify individuals about a risk, and in many instances that will be sufficient.

However, the Department of Education Guidance goes onto say

'As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the child or young person's cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take.'

So in this situation it is not a matter of giving consent to share data, there is a Public Duty to do so. As a school we will co-operate with such requests. Schools are under an obligation to share data

At no point we will we share data without a sound legal basis, but please be aware that we will share data where necessary.