

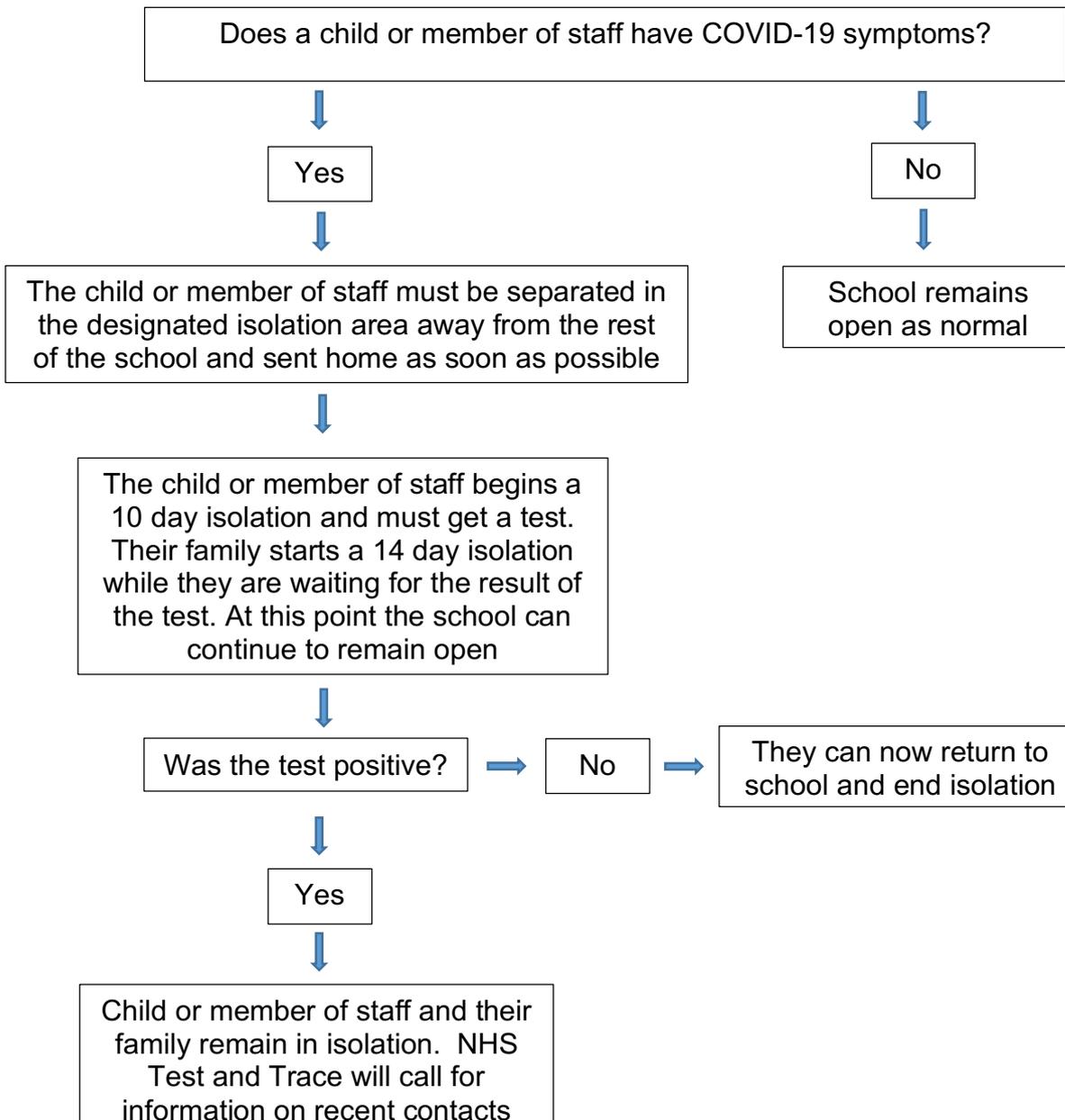
25 August 2020

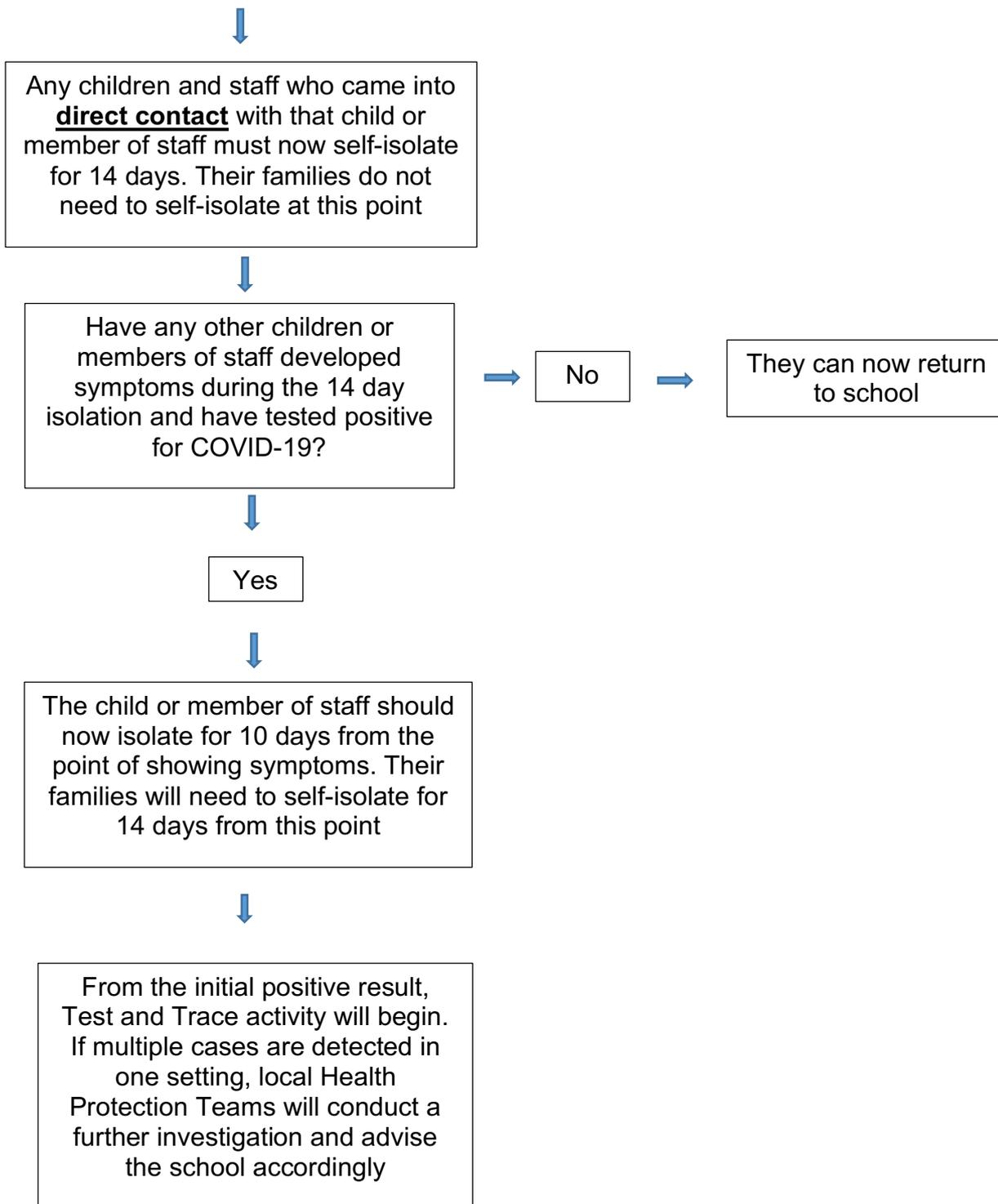
Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Protocol for Suspected Covid-19 Cases and Wearing Masks in School

I am pleased to be writing to you as we prepare to welcome back all our pupils to St Bede's. We have been working hard to prepare for their return and to make sure we follow Department for Education Guidance and offer a safe environment for our children and staff alike. All of us are looking forward to being together again in our school but it is vital that we work together to minimise the potential spread of the virus in school and community.

As a school within Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, we have worked together with colleagues from the Trust and our advisors to develop this diagram which shows how we will advise individuals (parents and staff) and their households if they become unwell OR if they are sent home because they have been in contact with someone who is displaying symptoms.





The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **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

The majority of people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

NHS Test and Trace

The NHS Test and Trace service will help to control the rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of the infection and ultimately save lives. By playing your part through the actions set out below, you will directly help to contain the virus by reducing its spread.

You can help in the following ways:

- if you develop symptoms, you must continue to follow the rules to self-isolate with other members of your household and get a test to find out if you have coronavirus
- if you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly about your recent contacts through the NHS Test and Trace service to help them alert other people who may need to self-isolate
- if you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS Test and Trace service advises you to do so.
- let school know if your son/daughter is absent due to self-isolation or confirmed positive case.

Definitions

‘Self-isolation if you have symptoms’ means you and all household members **must** remain at home. Do not go outside your home for any reason i.e. to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis.

‘Contact’ means a person who has been in **close contact** with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus and who may or may not live with them.

If someone from school contacts you because your child has developed symptoms during the course of the day you will be asked to make arrangements to collect them as soon as possible. Children are to be collected from the main entrance.

Voluntary wearing of masks at St Bede’s Catholic Academy

Current Government guidelines stipulates that masks **should not be worn in classrooms either by pupils and staff**, however, as a Trust we have agreed that although not mandatory, face masks may be worn on a voluntary basis by staff and children in general communal areas of school such as corridors. Children will not be wearing masks in the dining hall or whilst outside. Kitchen staff, who are serving food, will wear masks.

In the light of World Health Organisation guidelines, we would not recommend that children wear masks under the age of 12, however, parents who insist that their children wear a mask in general communal areas will be expected to provide their own masks. Only face masks (either washable or disposable) will be acceptable i.e no visors, snoods, balaclavas or other scarf coverings. If they choose to bring a mask to school, you **must** supply your child with a small plastic zip lock bag for safe and hygienic mask storage during lessons and lunchtime. Mask cannot be brought into classrooms. Staff are not responsible for and are unable to touch children’s masks. If your child wears a mask, they are responsible for storage. School will not provide masks or replacements if they are lost.

This has been a very difficult few months and we are very keen to restart your child's invaluable education. We know that so many of you are very keen to get your children back into routine. We hope you will be supportive of school's position. Their safety and mental wellbeing is paramount in all of our decision making.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact us on 01642 678071 or admin@stbedesstockton.bhcet.org.uk if you have any queries or worries. We will notify you of any changes to these arrangements if and when they happen.

Yours sincerely,



B L Rizzi-Allan
Head Teacher



M Regan OBE DL
Chief Executive Officer