

**C-19 Education Recovery Group
1500 – 1600, Thursday 19 November 2020**

Excerpt

NB There is a lot on this agenda and time management will be important to ensure we get through it all. Indicative timings have been provided below.

1. Welcome and updates from DFM [< 5mins]

Attendance

Apologies have been received from Karen Reid.

Dr Carol Campbell (Associate Professor of Leadership and Educational Change, University of Toronto) and Professor Alma Harris (Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy at the Department of Education, University of Bath) will attend the meeting on behalf of the ICEA (item 5).

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be in attendance to discuss the Protect Scotland app (item 6)

Please note (update as at 1/12/20): ITEM NOT ADDRESSED AT THIS MEETING

Points 2 to 5 are OUT OF SCOPE

6. Protect Scotland app [5/10 mins]

The team behind the Protect App are exploring the possibility of lowering the age of use from 16 to 11/12, to enable use by pupils in secondary schools. The team are keen to consult with CERG, to understand potential impact on school policies.

You may wish to hand over to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to set out the proposal, and invite comment from CERG members.

7. OUT OF SCOPE

PROTECT SCOTLAND APP

1. The first major functional update to the app after launch was the development of a 'pause' function within the app. This was already under consideration prior to launch, but extensive feedback highlighted the need for people to be able to quickly, and easily, pause the proximity tracing functionality of the app without having to (for example) turn off Bluetooth for other apps.
2. As the app does not know when a user has taken significant measures to reduce risk of infection, such as when wearing medical grade PPE in a clinical setting or standing behind a Perspex screen for the majority of their working day, the pause functionality allows app users to temporarily suspend proximity tracing for a set time. The pause function is controlled exclusively by the user, who can set a timer in the app to remind them to switch tracing back on. The app does not access any additional settings within your phone, so will not automatically switch itself back on.
3. This functionality was available in the app stores from 30 September and formally 'launched' on 02 October. Existing users have to update the app to gain this extra functionality. Update information was circulated to Health Boards (in particular) and other key stakeholders so they could alert their staff to the additional functionality.
4. The availability of the pause function did not change the existing guidance on when to use, or not use, Protect Scotland, as set out on www.protect.scot since launch:
 - There are very few circumstances where it is advised to turn the app off. Whilst proximity measurements to identify potential contacts cannot take account whether the encounter is face to face, or whether there are face coverings or screens in place etc., they are a good measure of the distance and time spent near a confirmed case which would put you at risk if no other mitigations are in place. All app users should therefore keep their phone on and with them whenever possible, with the app active on their phone at all times except in the following small number of circumstances:
 - If the user is a health or social care worker in a clinical setting, wearing medical grade PPE. This includes ambulance personnel
 - If the user is protected by a fixed physical barrier from customers and colleagues such as a Perspex screen for the *majority of the working day*. This doesn't apply for those who constantly move around (e.g. café workers behind tills with a screen who also move around the café)
 - If the user keeps their phone in a locker or equivalent facility at work and not on their person
 - In these circumstances, ideally individuals should turn off their phone as that means the app will automatically continue to work when the phone is turned back on again.
 - However, it is recognised that that is not always possible so alternatively users can use the pause function within the app. This allows users to set a timer for how long the app will not use the exposure notification system, whilst still being able to use Bluetooth (and/or location if required). Users can also choose to

disable Bluetooth. It is also possible for users to turn off the Exposure Notification Setting on their mobile phone. This will turn off the 'contact tracing' functionality until the Exposure Notification Setting is switched back on. The user will need to remember to turn their Exposure Notification Settings and/or Bluetooth back on, which is why the pause function is the preferred option.

- The app should NOT be switched off in the following scenarios:
 - Where PPE, including visors and face coverings, is used in non-clinical settings (e.g. building sites, café's, transport, by fire and police personnel etc.)
 - In the home or vehicles (signals from adjoining properties or vehicles are unlikely to result in a contact alert)

5. Our guidance also makes it clear that the app is not infallible. If users receive a close contact alert advising them to self-isolate, but believe they may meet one of the above scenarios, they are advised to call the National COVID helpline to help them understand the exposure notification and make an informed decision as to whether to self-isolate.

6. One aspect that is perhaps less clear on in existing guidance, and which the App Oversight Group discussed on 10 November, is the role of local public health teams and the extent to which 'manual' information overrides 'automated' information. It was agreed that the guidance on protect.scot would be updated slightly to make it clearer that if a full health protection-led risk assessment suggests that appropriate mitigation is in place within certain workplaces, then local health protection teams may offer additional advice in relation to the use of the app, such as when it is appropriate to pause the app. In addition, we will make it clearer on the website – users who receive an alert via the app are already told this – that any guidance or recommendations from the contact tracing process will override what the app says, give the inability of the app to take into account different scenarios.

7. Finally, it is important to note three things:

- Protect Scotland works on a 24-hour cycle, looking for proximity contacts that are (accumulatively) longer than 15 minutes for 2 metres or less. App users may well be in close proximity to someone who tests positive whilst appropriate protective measures are in place (e.g. in a working environment) for, say 8 hours, but they could equally be in close proximity to them out with the working environment during the other 16 hours (e.g. whilst on lunch/smoking/toilet breaks together, travelling to and from work, meeting for a drink after work etc.). If one tests positive and another receives an alert, it is impossible to know from the app alone at what point during that 24 hour period the necessary contact took place. This means on some occasions, public health teams may ascertain from the interview process that sufficient measures were in place, so the app can be ignored, or it may be that they determine that contact also took place elsewhere so the app should be followed.
- Given the wholly anonymous nature of the app, it is entirely possible that the alert someone receives from the app is wholly unrelated to the positive/index case in the same workplace – contact could have been with someone else who has also tested positive, e.g. a fellow passenger on a bus. It is for this reason that generally, advice is always to follow what the app tells you to do.

- For the overwhelming majority of app users, the general advice remains unchanged. Keep your phone with you, use app as intended, enter your unique test code if you test positive in order to alert others, and follow the advice of the app if you receive a proximity alert.

TEMPLATE LETTER

[FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF OTHER PUPILS (NOT CLOSE CONTACTS)]

Date:

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to advise you that we have been made aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

After consultation with the NHS Grampian Health Protection Team (HPT), we have identified that your child **has not** been in close contact with the case at a time when they were likely infectious.

The HPT have advised that all other pupils can continue to attend school as normal unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms or are identified as a close contact outside the school setting by NHS Test and Protect.

I realise that this news may be unsettling. I want to reassure parents and carers that there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 within the school and that the school has good control measures in place. The strength of the control measures has enabled the HPT to advise that the school remain open.

General advice on COVID-19

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the general advice currently in place for everyone. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, NHS 111 can provide assessment over the phone and information about testing. Further information on testing can be found on [NHS Inform](#). They should begin 10 days of self-isolation whilst waiting for their test result. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and begin 14 days of household isolation whilst waiting for the test result.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things that we can all be doing to help reduce the risk of getting ill with COVID-19. These include:

- washing your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- washing your hands as soon as you get home

- covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- putting used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Kind regards
Headteacher

[REDACTED]

From: Milbourne A (Alan)
Sent: 01 December 2020 17:13
To: Milbourne A (Alan)
Subject: FW: City of Edinburgh Council advice
Attachments: Proximity App - Receiving an Alert (2).pptx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 11:32
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: City of Edinburgh Council advice

[REDACTED]

Updated information received from Edinburgh City Council, who have forwarded to staff information provided by NHS Lothian iro health workers, which the Council felt may be relevant to school staff in certain situations, including iro the use of PPE, etc.

[REDACTED] stressed that ECC have not issued a blanket instruction for Edinburgh schools staff to switch off the app, but have shared the attached information for consideration locally.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 11:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: City of Edinburgh Council advice

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 12 November 2020 at 11:19:41 GMT
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: City of Edinburgh Council advice

[REDACTED]

We have a system in place which provides instructions, guidance and advice for schools to support the safe operation of facilities across the estate, known as School Operations Risk Toolkit.

As you will appreciate, we have staff, often in Special schools or who support children and young people on a one to one basis who are required to wear PPE routinely. Clearly this group of staff would meet the criteria for switching their phone off.

We have not issued general advice or instruction to switch the app off while in school. We have highlighted considerations on using the app and circulated the attached to support. This guidance was received from the NHS who also advised the bluetooth may be switched off to avoid incorrect proximity readings then more importantly remembering to switch back on.

Sent from my iPhone

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[REDACTED]

From: Milbourne A (Alan)
Sent: 01 December 2020 16:45
To: Milbourne A (Alan)
Subject: FW: Media this morning

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 10:25
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media this morning

To update – I have now spoken with [REDACTED]. He initially thought no guidance had been given but was on another call at the same time, where he checked with colleagues and learned that advice (he stressed this was advice and not mandatory) has been issued to schools, based on advice they have received from NHS Lothian. He has committed to sending me further details on that advice and the context within the next 30 mins.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 09:24
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media this morning

Happy to contact Edinburgh, [REDACTED]– I assume it relates to similar media coverage around encouraging staff to switch off the app, whether that is true and on what advice they made that decision????

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 09:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media this morning

Just spoken to East Ren – they are sending me stuff. They think the West Partnership previously sought advice from SG re the App – they are going to see if they can find anything.

[REDACTED] – please keep an eye out for an email from [REDACTED]and share with [REDACTED] etc.

I've not contacted Edinburgh – could [REDACTED] please do this?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 09:13
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media this morning

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this, it would be good if we can divide and conquer the asks today. [REDACTED] has offered to contact East Ren (and Edinburgh?) about the latest tweet on apps [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 08:14
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media this morning

I'm around and happy to help – heading out in next 10 mins for the school run, but will join the daily call when I return (slightly late as usual).

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 08:12
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Media this morning

Hi [REDACTED]

Just checking that you will be able to pull together all the media this morning re Aberdeen CC and the App for FMQs? Hopefully [REDACTED] would be able to support once we brief him as I know you have CERG and other demands.

[REDACTED]– many thanks for highlighting the Tweet yesterday, it gave us a great start for the rest of the day, we would have been blindsided without your spot.

Kindest regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Appgate
Attachments: Dear colleague App.docx

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 18:10

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Appgate

Comms statement from ACC and letter sent to schools today
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 18:08

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Appgate

Media statement below and letter attached, hoping for a better day tomorrow!
[REDACTED]

NB please note that staff were not asked to turn off the app, just to disable it.

An Aberdeen City Council spokeswoman said: "We have been working closely with Public Health officials locally and have agreed an enhanced level of PPE equipment for teachers and classroom assistants which is above that in the national guidance. Discussions also been carried out with trade unions.

"The health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and pupils is our highest priority and we are happy to provide additional medical-grade PPE to our teachers and classroom assistants who may require to be within 2m of a pupil or member of staff.

"We had a positive case in a school and we undertook an investigation and Public Health also made an assessment. The use of medical-grade PPE by staff resulted in them not being identified as a close contact.

"Some time later, the app sent a message to the same staff and asked them to self-isolate. Public Health advised that staff disable the app whilst in school and we passed that advice onto schools whilst we await an update from the Scottish Government who we advised of the issue on Tuesday evening.

[REDACTED]

DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER - Excerpt of Ministerial Briefing

Engagement Title	Green party business debate: Safe Schools
Venue	Scottish Parliament
Date and Time	Wednesday 18 November 2020 14:50-16:00
Event Programme	John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education
Main message	<i>Our aim remains to ensure schools are safe, open and welcoming, and we believe that the harm done by closing schools still significantly outweighs the impact they have on transmission rates.</i>
Media	None
Motion	<p>S5M-23385 Ross Greer: Safe Schools— *S5M-23385 Ross Greer: Safe Schools—That the Parliament believes that education is best delivered in the classroom, but that making schools safe for pupils, teachers and staff must be a top priority of government during the pandemic; notes that, as of 10 November 2020, 29,486 pupils and 2,615 staff were absent from Scottish schools for COVID-19-related reasons, with absence rates affecting areas with higher levels of deprivation more; expresses concern regarding reports that some school staff have been instructed to turn off the Protect Scotland app when in school and may have felt under pressure to continue to attend schools even when notified by the app of a potential exposure risk; considers it unacceptable that some clinically vulnerable teachers have felt pressured to return to in-person teaching against specific advice from their GPs to the contrary and in the absence of an overall national strategy on how to deal with school staff with chronic or underlying health conditions; calls on the Scottish Government to work with local authorities to ensure that any vulnerable school staff member who is medically unable to attend school in person without being placed at unacceptable risk is better supported to either work from home or in a safer alternative setting, or, if this is not possible, to potentially be placed on leave without loss of income; commends the work of local government and Scottish Government in the recruitment of an additional 1,250 teachers and 155 support staff, with an estimated 200 further teachers and 100 support staff in the pipeline; further commends COSLA and Scottish Government for continuing to work in partnership to ensure sufficient teaching and support staff in schools; recognises the Scottish Government’s commitment to provide an additional £155m for the COVID response in school education while awaiting the outcome of a COSLA-led exercise on additional costs incurred by local authorities in relation to school safety; notes that testing is available for asymptomatic</p>

	<p>teachers who have concerns and commits to exploring how to expand testing further for teachers and other school staff; expresses gratitude to teachers and other school staff for the professionalism and dedication they have shown to keep schools open safely, and thereby continuing to protect the development, wellbeing and educational progress of our children and young people; and welcomes the Health and Safety Executive's very positive feedback about the work done by school staff to implement the school safety guidance, following a programme of independent spot checks and inspections; further welcomes the findings of the Connect parent/carer 'back at school survey' where 70% of respondents feel school is going well for their child."</p>
<p>Briefing Action Officer</p>	<p>[REDACTED], Education Recovery, Learning Directorate</p>
<p>Attending Officials</p>	

TEST AND PROTECT APP

The original debate motion “expresses concern regarding reports that some school staff have been instructed to turn off the Protect Scotland app when in school and may have felt under pressure to continue to attend schools even when notified by the app of a potential exposure risk.”

There are a limited number of circumstances when it is advised to pause the Protect Scotland App

- In schools, this would include when staff are leaving their phones in a locker or if an app user is protected behind a screen, or similar, for the majority of the working day.
- However, whenever teachers are carrying their phones on them, the app should be switched on.
- If a full health protection-led risk assessment suggests that appropriate mitigation is in place within certain workplaces, then local health protection teams may offer additional advice in relation to the use of the app.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Excerpt from Ministerial Briefing

11 & 12 November: Tweets from [REDACTED] on Aberdeen City Council, East Renfrewshire and Edinburgh councils instructing teachers to switch off the Test and Protect app while in school

We know that Protect Scotland is working, and more than 1.6 million people have already downloaded it

- We encourage everyone to download and use the app if they have a compatible smartphone
- Advice from the CMO and NCD supports the App being used as intended and we would encourage school staff to carry phones with it switched on
- There are a limited number of circumstances when it is advised to pause Protect Scotland, but for the vast majority of people.
- Where this is not possible the pause function was developed to support this.
- There are local arrangements in many schools, for a number of reasons, which mean staff are not permitted to have phones on their person while at school
- The Scottish Government is working with local authorities including Aberdeen, as well as organisations such as Public Health Scotland, NHS Scotland and the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland to identify how best to ensure consistency and clarity of guidance in this area.

Council areas where information or advice has been issued to school staff:

- City of Aberdeen Council Public Health officials have instructed the Council to ask teachers to switch off Test and Protect when in school. The PHS rationale is that due to Aberdeen staff using clinical grade PPE, the app should be disabled when staff are observing those and the other mitigations.
- Edinburgh City Council have confirmed that they have not instructed staff to switch off the Test and Protect app while in school. They have however cascaded to schools NHS Lothian information on when it is appropriate to switch off the app for health workers, which may also be relevant in some school or classroom settings where the appropriate mitigations are in place.
- East Renfrewshire have provided guidance to schools advising that the app is disabled when phones are stored in lockers or staff-rooms when staff may not be present, to avoid the risk of a false contact.

There are a limited number of circumstances when it is advised to pause the Protect Scotland App

- The Protect Scotland app from NHS Scotland's Test and Protect is designed to help people and reduce the spread of coronavirus.
- The app will alert an individual if they have been in close contact with another app user who has tested positive for coronavirus and can help in determining contacts that may have otherwise been missed while keeping people's information private and anonymous.

SCHOOL SAFETY

- There are a limited number of circumstances when it is advised to pause the Protect Scotland App, including when people are leaving their phones in a locker
- If a full health protection-led risk assessment suggests that appropriate mitigation is in place within certain workplaces, then local health protection teams may offer additional advice in relation to the use of the app.
- Details on the limited number of circumstances when it is advised to pause the app are set out on protect.scot
- At the start of October, we added a 'pause' button to the app to make it easier to temporarily disable the app, in line with the existing guidance.
- Protect Scotland works on a 24h basis - meaning any alerts issued could relate to any contact during that period.
- For the vast majority of people, Protect Scotland should be used as intended when carrying your phone. This includes teachers - the only general exception is health & social care workers when they are wearing medical-grade PPE.
- We will work with Public Health Scotland to ensure local public health teams are consistent in their messaging.
- Advice from Health Protection Teams may override advice from the app to self-isolate.

Ministerial Briefing

Aberdeen City Council Track & Trace Update

This note is to update on the use of the Track and Trace App in Aberdeen City Council (ACC) schools and the concerns in relation to staff switching off the App whilst working in schools.

Context

We have established through the Education team at Aberdeen City Council, that Public Health instructed them to ask teachers to switch off Track and Trace when in school, as it was repeatedly contacting teachers and asking them to self-isolate. The rationale for this from the local PHS team was that due to the schools using clinical grade PPE, the advice was that the app should be disabled or off. This was particularly confusing for school staff when following a local IMT meeting a different strategy had been agreed.

ACC has invested in medical grade PPE for all schools and masks meet clinical regulations. They are confident that this has impacted positively on the very low numbers of staff or children self-isolating despite a high number of local school cases. They quoted six schools with active cases in last three weeks, where no students were asked to self-isolate due to this PPE approach alongside normal mitigations. The LA confirmed the App is turned off when staff are in school, not just when there is an outbreak. The LA is concerned about national public health advice conflicting with local public health advice. They are further concerned about their ability to keep schools open if staff attendance is reduced further through self-isolation. They are currently at a crisis level with staffing this week.

Issue

In the case referenced in the Tweet from James McEnaney the LA state that the advice came direct from the local PHS team and was sent to 3 LAs (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) in the health board region. Following this advice the following information was shared with ACC head teachers this week. A copy of the correspondence is below:

“Good morning

As you know the high level of Covid controls and safety measures within our school buildings have been working extremely well. We continue to have positive cases reported, but increasingly, following Public Health investigation, no close contacts are being identified in either staff or pupils because of the mitigations in place in schools. Consistent wearing of fluid resistant masks and strict adherence to 2m distancing have played a significant part in this.

A recent case has highlighted an issue with the Test and Trace app, which many school staff will have downloaded. Unfortunately, when the app is on, staff working in schools may be notified of having been a close contact of a positive case even when a Public Health investigation of the full circumstances may have identified no close contacts. The system does not enable people to identify exactly where and when the contact took place and as a result some staff have received a text message instructing them to self-isolate when Public Health colleagues, with all the information about the mitigations in place, have identified there is no need to do

Ministerial Briefing

so. Public Health colleagues have suggested that school staff should disable or remove the app while working in school buildings as the app is not able to identify when robust mitigations have been in place. Please ask staff in your schools to disable the Test and Trace app while working in school. The issue has been raised nationally and we hope to be able to share a more practical solution in the coming weeks.”

Guidance on reducing risks in schools, published by Scottish Government on 30 October, states:

*“The Protect Scotland app from NHS Scotland’s Test and Protect is designed to help people and reduce the spread of coronavirus. It is suitable for people aged 16+. The app will alert an individual if they have been in close contact with another app user who has tested positive for coronavirus and can help in determining contacts that may have otherwise been missed while keeping people’s information private and anonymous. **Advice from Health Protection Teams may override advice from the app to self-isolate.**”*

Current position

This afternoon an urgent view was sought from NIMT about the Protect App and use in schools. Consensus agreement from the NIMT was that if the phone is on the person it must be kept switched on and if not on the person the phone should be turned off or paused and risk assessments undertaken by Test and Protect.

Consideration should be given to communal areas in schools, such as corridors or staffrooms, where staff may meet for extended periods of time. Further work will need to be taken forward to consider the best approach in these areas. It may need to be considered, where possible, if staff should be encouraged to ensure phone is with them and App on in communal areas to ensure contacts are accurate.

Education Scotland colleagues continue to engage with the LA education team, who are keen to have clarity on the national position and advice from PHS, and to communicate with school staff tomorrow on this matter.

[REDACTED]

From: Milbourne A (Alan)
Sent: 01 December 2020 16:49
To: Milbourne A (Alan)
Subject: FW: Protect Scotland App

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 10:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Protect Scotland App

FYI

Kindest regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 09:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Protect Scotland App

[Looks like it came from nhs – see below](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2020 09:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Protect Scotland App

All

[Further info from EHO re the app.](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 September 2020 10:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Protect Scotland App

Hello [REDACTED]

I raised your concerns with PHPU – these have been common issues in the NHS and schools.

There is further info at

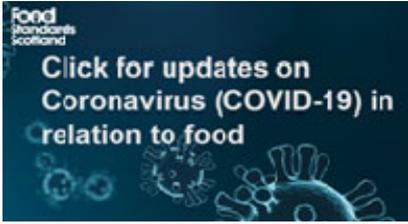
<https://protect.scot/faq>

In relation to the proximity/duration feature it will identify a person <2M for >15 min.
The solution to mobiles in lockers/bags etc is to turn off the bluetooth functionality.
If a person in a school is notified as a contact it may not necessarily be caused by the school contact e.g. potential hospitality/travel contact etc.
There is no way of bypassing the process if identified as a contact.

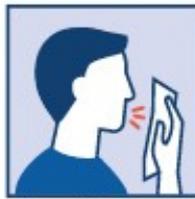
Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Wash your hands.



Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes.



Avoid touching your face.

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

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[REDACTED]

From: Milbourne A (Alan)
Sent: 01 December 2020 16:46
To: Milbourne A (Alan)
Subject: FW: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30
Importance: High

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 16:43
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm afraid this has become more complex than first appreciated. I understand the IMT is still ongoing so we have no new information from that in relation to the incident which resulted in the Tweet earlier. What I can tell you for the 5pm briefing is:

- The tweet referenced a single incident where regional public health advice appears to be out of step with national public health advice- this is one of the issues being covered at today's IMT.
- This difference in PH advice has highlighted the potential for unforeseen staffing difficulties if the notifications via the App result in large numbers of staff having to self-isolate
- The risk is that unless the guidance is clarified or changed this will continue to be a possible issue

We have detailed information on operation of the App and will include this in a more detailed and up to date note covering the incident and actions to address this as soon as possible this afternoon.

The delay in receiving feedback from the IMT means there is currently no update on the testing request but this is being pursued and will be with you ASAP this evening.

I'm sorry we can't be more definitive at the moment.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 16:26
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30

We are working on it, [REDACTED] said 5pm at the latest.

Kindest regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 16:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30

All -[REDACTED]is having IT issues, so I'm chasing on his behalf. Is this on its way to us?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 15:39
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30

Yes – we'll need by as close to 16:00 as you can manage

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 15:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30

Hi [REDACTED]

I am pulling the background on the App together and have some helpful information from colleagues about the incident referred to in the tweet but I need a little more time to pull this together and set out the background properly. I am about to go into a short unrelated telephone call with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

. Can I have a short extension please?

Others are, I think working on the testing request.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 13:35
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30

Sorry – a further follow-up as well. On the surveillance testing, we have the CASS which is antibody testing for the 30k staff who have signed-up to that. The School Infection survey takes a sub-set of the Test and Protect Data where an educational setting is identified and analyses that and the final strand is also test and Protect data for age-groups in education (presumably there is overlap between 2 and 3?). So it is only the staff element of this which involves proactive testing, the pupil elements are both data analysis rather than testing?

Grateful if you could clarify this and the lines in the return for 15:30.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 13:24
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 15:30

[REDACTED]

I suspect this is self-evident, but you will have heard the questions on the app issue in the FM's media briefing. We are going to need a detailed breakdown of the issue and the answers to questions posed, such as the extent of the guidance from Aberdeen and whether this has been raised nationally as claimed. Could you also annex copies of the letters etc?

Can you get us an update with as much detail as possible for 15:30?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 12:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 13:00

Thanks all. Can you let me know asap if there is anything further on the Aberdeenshire issue?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2020 12:26
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 13:00

Dear All

With thanks to all colleagues (copied for info) for rapid turnaround and input on today's media and Twitter coverage please find attached Word and eRDM link. There are ongoing conversations in relation to the Protect Scotland App so it may be necessary to update this again.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

Click on the link to open 'School Safety - 11 November 2020' - <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30765939/details>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 10:32

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: School Safety FMQ - Update requested - Deadline 13:00

Thanks – see also this tweet regarding teachers in Aberdeenshire being advised to turn off the Protect Scotland App.

<https://twitter.com/MrMcEnaney/status/1326460764920684545?s=20>

We'll need lines on this please

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED- OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED]

From: Milbourne A (Alan)
Sent: 01 December 2020 17:17
To: Milbourne A (Alan)
Subject: FW: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 20:20

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Hi [REDACTED]

With apologies for the radio silence. With thanks to colleagues I am attaching a couple of information papers relating to the coverage today on the Protect Scotland App. Please find attached briefing on the Aberdeen City Council situation re Protect Scotland App and a factual paper on the Protect Scotland App, which have been sent to FM ahead of FMQ tomorrow. We are also preparing a 1-page briefing on support for students who are self-isolating. There will be further updates between then and now but don't hesitate to contact me at any point.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 18:02

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Folks

DFM has asked to see further detail on this issue please – An FMQ brief would suffice.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 13:22

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

This has come up a lot at the media briefing today with FM being asked on a number of occasions

Can we get asap – a clear idea of what and why it happened (I think [REDACTED] has most of it)

A copy of the letter

And public health advice and from the app team – on if this is correct.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 11:51

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

>

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Not just when there is an outbreak, but when in school generally.

Just confirmed with LA

[REDACTED]

From: Lloyd E (Elizabeth) <Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot>

Sent: 11 November 2020 11:44

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

[REDACTED]

Are they being asked to turn it off permanently when in school, or just when there's an outbreak.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 11:42

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

I have just checked our guidance about the App, this might help with lines?

- The Protect Scotland app from NHS Scotland's Test and Protect is designed to help people and reduce the spread of coronavirus. It is suitable for people aged 16+. The app will alert an individual if they have been in close contact with another app user who has tested positive for coronavirus and can help in determining contacts that may have otherwise been missed while keeping people's information private and anonymous. Advice from Health Protection Teams may override advice from the app to self-isolate.

Kindest regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 11:34

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Importance: High

I have just spoken to the Education team at ACC, who state that Public Health instructed them to ask teachers to switch off Track and Trace when in school as it was repeatedly contacting teachers and asking them to self-isolate, particularly after an IMG had met and agreed action/limited action and so teachers were getting confused.

This information was shared with ACC head teachers this week.

I am awaiting a further call back from the LA with more detail.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 11:09

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Adding FM briefing unit and [REDACTED] to this. FM will need info by 12 at the latest. Ta.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 Nov 2020 11:00

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you

We are aware and seeking to prepare urgent advice. PHS and other colleagues in copy
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2020 10:58

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Tweet by [REDACTED] on Twitter

Hi all,

Please see tweet below, DFM has asked for urgent advice.

As always grateful for confirmation this has been picked up.

Happy to discuss

[REDACTED]

 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



I have today been sent an email from a teacher showing Aberdeen City Council instructing teachers to switch off the Track & Trace app while in school. They say that this advice has come from "Public Health colleagues".

pic.twitter.com/RyRZXzUxd3

11/11/2020, 09:44

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
