UKHSA SW: Guidance for Childcare and Educational Settings in the Management of COVID-19

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Prevent the spread of all infections by maintaining high standards of hygiene, including hand washing and robust cleaning.

If you have any operational or policy questions please call the Department for Education (DfE) advice line on 0800 046 8687.

For outbreak support, the DfE will escalate to UKHSA/LA as necessary for further risk assessment. You do not need to escalate via multiple routes.

See //www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2021/08/spotty-book-2021.pdf for advice on other (non-COVID) infections, including when to call HPT.

GUIDANCE: Visit https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak FOR TESTING: Visit https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.

BEFORE USING THE FLOWCHART – PLEASE CHECK THE DEFINITION OF A POSSIBLE AND CONFIRMED CASE – SEE BOX AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

POSSIBLE (symptomatic) case in child or staff member

Advise the case stays home, takes a PCR test and informs you of the result. Possible cases are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with

and send

home.

(Refer to PPE

guidance if

personal care

is required

within 2m)

Clean and

disinfect area

symptomatic

person

attended

wearing PPE

(gloves and

apron. If risk

of significant

virus (e.g.

dorm room

where person

slept) use a

Type IIR mask,

and, if risk of

splashes, eye

protection.

other people while they are waiting for their result. PCR tests (rather than at home LFD test) recommended for people with the main symptoms of COVID-19

If the possible case cannot, or will not get tested but COVID-19 is suspected (e.g. one of three main symptoms) setting can refuse pupil for period where they may reasonably be infectious to others (e.g. for 10 days from symptom onset).

No further action is needed until the test result is known.

Result of test?

Positive for COVID-19
FOLLOW THE CONFIRMED CASE process

Negative for COVID-19

Case can return once well and at least 24 hours fever free (without medication).

Possible and confirmed case definition

Possible case: A child or staff member with a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) prior to PCR testing.

Confirmed case: PCR or LFD positive case with or without symptoms.

LFD testing: For people without the main symptoms of COVID-19. Staff and pupils in mainstream settings are no longer advised to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing. SEND settings advised to continue X2 weekly testing

People who test positive using a LFD test do NOT need to take a PCR test unless they have been advised to do so (e.g. to access early treatment)

CONFIRMED case in child or staff member

A confirmed result can be on LFD or PCR.

There is no need for confirmatory PCR following a positive LFD.

Advice case isolate until well (fever free) and either:

-10 full days have passed, or

-they have produced negative LFD tests on two consecutive days with the first taken no earlier than day 5.

Routine NHS Test and Trace contact tracing has ended and there is no longer a legal requirement for close contacts to isolate and they are no longer advised to test daily using LFDs.

People with COVID-19 are advised to inform their close contacts of their positive test. Contacts who live with or have stayed overnight with a positive case during their infectious period are advised to take extra precautions for 10 days. See advice in www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts

Children and young people who live with someone with COVID-19 should still attend there setting as normal unless they develop symptoms or test positive.

Staff who live with someone who has COVID-19 should work from home where they can. If they are unable to work from home they can continue to attend work in line with guidance.

Close contacts should pay close attention to the main symptoms of COVID-19 and test and isolate if they develop a cough, temperature of loss of/change to taste or smell.

Continue with baseline infection, prevention and control measures (see right(.

Cases can return once well and recommended isolation period is completed

More than 2 CONFIRMED cases in the same group or class within 10 days

Follow the process for a possible/confirmed for each case

Reinforce infection prevention measures throughout your setting (See Right)

Consider seeking public health advice via the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or via your local process if you experience:

For most education and childcare settings:

- a higher than previously experienced and/ or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection
- evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19
- a cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or students within the affected group

For special schools, alternative provision, SEND/AP units within schools and colleges, open and secure children's homes and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:

 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period and/or there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable individuals within the affected group

People that are Vulnerable to Covid-19

Following the successful vaccination programme people should follow the same advice as the general public. Further information and advice is available here //www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/

The risk to children and young people from COVID-19 is very low compared to adults, even for those with chronic conditions. Children and young people aged 5 and over who are at higher risk have been prioritised for vaccination. A description of conditions that place children and young people at higher risk is available here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1045852/Greenbook-chapter-14a-11Jan22.pdf#page=22

COVID-19 symptom definition:

- high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Infectious Period:

Two days before the onset of symptoms up to 10 days after onset (not considered infectious after 5 full days if LFD negative on two consecutive days with the first test taken on or after day 5). IF case has no symptoms but a positive test, treat the two days prior to test as the infectious period.

Baseline infection prevention and control measures.

- Regularly review and update risk assessments for proportionate control measures
- Implement a Contingency Plan setting out how the school would operate if additional measures were recommended in their setting to control an outbreak.
- Encourage vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff.
- Deliver strong messaging about signs and symptoms, isolation advice and testing, to support prompt isolation of suspected cases.
- Follow advice about managing a case of COVID-19 in your setting.
- Practice good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Ensure good ventilation of indoor spaces.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.

LOCAL INFORMATION:

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