

Guidance and Protocol for Possible or Confirmed Coronavirus

Source: Implementing Protective Measures in education and childcare settings 12 May 2020 and Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus. 20 May 2020. This guidance is subject to updates.

What to do if a child develops coronavirus symptoms in school.

- Reassure the child.
- Maintain social distancing to the child. If the adult cannot maintain the 2m distance then they should put PPE on themselves.
- Contact SLT who will take the child to the sunflower room in the infants and sunshine room in the juniors accessing the sunshine room from the outside door and wait outside in the corridor to monitor their wellbeing.
- Ask the office to phone the parent for immediate collection.
- Monitor the child and in an emergency call 999.
- The adults who helped the child should wash their hands thoroughly and check themselves for any emerging symptoms in the coming days. They do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or the child subsequently tests positive.
- Clean the infected area where the child was with disinfectant before being used by anyone else.
- If the child needs to visit the bathroom they should use the disabled toilet in the infants or Y5/6 toilets in the juniors. Those toilets will then need to remain closed until cleaned. Signage will be placed on the door to prevent entry.

What to do if an adult develops coronavirus symptoms in school.

- Reassure the adult.
- The adult should leave the site and follow the Covid 19 guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance and be tested at the earliest opportunity.
- Monitor the adult and in an emergency call 999.
- Clean the infected area with disinfectant before being used by anyone else.
- If the visits the bathroom those toilets will then need to remain closed until cleaned. Signage will be placed on the door to prevent entry.

What to do if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

- The child/ adult will go home and self-isolate for 7 days with fellow household members to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Staff and children will have access to a Covid test if they develop symptoms and are encouraged to get tested.
- If the test is negative, they can come back to school.
- If the test is positive, the rest of the group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- The day following a positive test being confirmed the department that the individual was located in will close for a deep clean. All children and staff who are located in that department will not attend school that day.
- The other household members of the class do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member that they live with develop symptoms.
- As part of the National test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise the school of the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure- perhaps the whole class, site or year group.

What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?

If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see ‘What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?’ below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider 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. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

20 May 2020

Symptoms

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

a new continuous cough

a high temperature

a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above **you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange.**

What do we mean by possible or confirmed coronavirus infection (COVID-19)?

Possible infection is where a person has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and is currently awaiting a test result.

Confirmed infection is where a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Main messages

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, OR you have received a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test result, the clear medical advice is to immediately self-isolate at home for at least 7 days from when your symptoms started. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange.

Consider alerting the people that you have had close contact within the last 48 hours to let them know you have symptoms of coronavirus COVID-19.

Following a positive test result, you will receive a request by text, email or phone to log into the NHS Test and Trace service website and provide information about recent close contacts

After 7 days, or longer, if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste, you must continue to self-isolate until you feel better.

You do not need to self-isolate if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste after 7 days, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. See the [ending isolation](#) section below for more information.

If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), then you must stay at home for at least 7 days. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill. See the [explanatory diagram](#).

Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection that people in your household could pass on to others in the community.

If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they must stay at home for at least 7 days from when their symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period. The [ending isolation](#) section below has more information, and see the [explanatory diagram](#).

If you have symptoms, you should stay as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important to stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you continue to share a household.

Reduce the spread of infection in your home by washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, and cover coughs and sneezes.

If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus (COVID-19) service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

If you develop new coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms at any point after ending your first period of isolation (self or household) then you must follow the same guidance on self-isolation again. The section below (After ending self-isolation and/or household-isolation) has further information.

Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is intended for:

people with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, who have received a positive test result

people with symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus (COVID-19) who are waiting for a test result, or who have not been tested and do not require hospital treatment, who must remain at home until they are well

people living in households with someone who shows symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Will my household be tested if we think we have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms?

Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) must immediately self-isolate and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange.

If you develop symptoms you may wish to alert the people that you have had close contact with over the last 48 hours to let them know that you might have coronavirus (COVID-19) but are waiting for a test result. At this stage, those people should not self-isolate. Alerting those that you have been in contact with means they can take extra care in practising social distancing and good hand and respiratory hygiene. They can also be more alert to any symptoms they might develop.

People who have tested positive will receive a text, email or phone call requesting that they log into the NHS Test and Trace website to create a confidential account where they can record details about their recent close contacts. If you do not have access to the web, then you will be phoned by a contact tracer working for the NHS Test and Trace service. The information you provide will be handled in strict confidence and will enable the NHS Test and Trace service to contact those people and provide them with advice on whether they should go into self-isolation. This will help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The people contacted will not be told your identity, but by alerting them when you first develop symptoms, you can help make sure that they are prepared for being contacted by the Test and Trace service.

Why staying at home is very important

It is very important that people with symptoms that may be due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and their household members stay at home. Staying at home will help prevent the spread of the virus to family, friends, the wider community, and particularly those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#). Controlling the spread of the virus will help us to protect the NHS and save lives.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and you live alone you must remain at home for at least 7 days after the onset of your symptoms (see [ending self-isolation](#) below). This will reduce the risk of you infecting others.

If you or anyone in your household has symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), then you must avoid contact with other household members as much as possible.

The other members of your household, including those who do not have any symptoms, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. You must not go out even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise must be taken within your home. This 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in your house became ill. There is more information in the [ending self-isolation](#) section below.

Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

While you are self-isolating, make sure you do the following things

Stay at home

You and everyone else in your household must remain at home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis.

Nobody should go out even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise must be taken within your home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Delivery drivers should not come into your home, so make sure you ask them to leave items outside for collection.

Further guidance on accessing food and essential supplies is available at [Accessing food and essential supplies](#).

If you are unable to work due to coronavirus (COVID-19), please refer to this [guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions](#) to find out about the support that is available to you.

Living with children

We are aware that not all these measures will be possible if you are living with children, but keep following this guidance to the best of your ability.

What we have seen so far is that children with coronavirus (COVID-19) appear to be less severely affected. It is nevertheless important to do your best to ensure that all members of your household follow this guidance.

For those with learning disabilities, autism or serious mental illness

We are aware that not all these measures will be possible if you, or those you are living with, have significant conditions such as learning disabilities, autism or serious mental illness. Please keep following this guidance to the best of your ability, whilst keeping yourself and those close to you safe and well, ideally in line with any existing care plans.

Avoid contact with other members of your household as much as possible

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), it is important to reduce the spread of infection to others in your household as much as possible.

You should stay in a well-ventilated room with a window to the outside that can be opened, separate from other people in your home if this is possible. Keep the door closed.

Use a separate bathroom from the rest of the household, if available. If you have to share these facilities, regular cleaning will be required. If a separate bathroom is not available, consider drawing up a bathroom rota for washing or bathing. You should use the facilities last, before thoroughly cleaning the bathroom. You should use separate towels from other household members, both for drying yourself after bathing or showering and for hand hygiene purposes.

You should avoid using shared spaces such as kitchens whilst others are present. Take your meals back to your room to eat. Use a dishwasher (if available) to clean and dry your used crockery and cutlery. If this is not possible, wash them by hand using detergent and warm water and dry them thoroughly, using a separate tea towel.