PHE SW HPT: Guidance for Childcare and Educational Settings in the management of COVID-19

Version 12 2021.07.19

Prevent the spread of all infections by maintaining high standards of hygiene, including hand washing and regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. If you have any infection control concerns or questions please call the **Department for Education (DfE) advice line on 0800 046 8687** or, if a process is in place, your **local authority**.

You should only call the HPT on 0300 303 8162 if advised to do so by the DfE advice line or if you meet the criteria in the guidance below. The HPT do not need to be notified of cases or outbreaks unless you meet the criteria.

GUIDANCE: Visit https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19

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 case in child or staff member

Contact the DfE helpline or your local authority for support if:

- the possible case has been admitted to hospital
- the possible case can't or won't get A PCR Test
- the possible case is a household or enduring contact of a confirmed case.

Ensure the case isolates, arranges a **PCR** test and informs you of the result. Household of the possible case should also isolate pending the results. Other close contacts of a possible case do not need to isolate until the results are known

Clean and disinfect rooms the possible case was using – ensure appropriate PPE (see right) are used.

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

Result of test?

Negative for COVID-19

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

Household can stop selfisolating and carry on as normal.

Positive for COVID-19 FOLLOW THE CONFIRMED CASE process

IF the CHILD is in the setting – Isolate away from others

(Refer to PPE guidance if personal care is required within 2m)

and send

home.

CONFIRMED case in child or staff member

If you need advice or support Contact the DfE advice line on 0800 046 8687 or follow local process.

Only call the HPT if you are a special school, a residential school, or your have been advised to by the DfE.

Ensure the case isolates for 10 days.

Household of the case isolates for 10 days.

If positive test came from an LFD test, case should take a confirmatory PCR test within 48 hours of the LFD

Following a PCR positive,
NHS Test and Trace will
speak to the case (or their
parent/carer) to identify
close contacts and advise
them they need to selfisolate. Schools are no
longer expected to
undertake contact tracing
for their setting.

Clean and disinfect rooms the case was using – ensure appropriate PPE (see right) are used.

Cases & identified contacts can return once the isolation period is completed (so long as well).

2 or more CONFIRMED cases in the same group or class

Follow the process for a possible/confirmed for each case setting during

the infectious

period (2 days

before

symptoms to

10 days after)

then no

further action

needs to be

taken by the

school

If the follow-

up PCR is

negative AND

the case has

no symptoms,

case and

contacts can

stop isolating.

Reinforce infection prevention measures throughout your setting including:

- Rapid isolation of possible and confirmed cases and their households (remember siblings)
- -Good hand and respiratory hygiene
 -Good ventilation of indoor
- spaces
 -Regular cleaning of
 frequently touched areas

Report outbreak via DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or your local process

Escalate to PHE (0300 303 8162) if:

- You are boarding/residential or SEND school
- you have a high rate of severe illness/ complex cases.
- The case(s) are linked to a variant of concern
- you have had more than 5 cases in the past 2 weeks or more than three class bubbles are affected
- You've taken all the action outlined but are still seeing more cases in the setting

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 to 10 days after onset.

IF case has no symptoms but a positive test, treat the two days prior to test as the infectious period

Cleaning:

Refer to Covid-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home. (on.gov.uk)

Enhanced cleaning should already be in place.

Following a suspected or confirmed case in the setting:

- PPE should be worn for cleaning minimum gloves and disposable apron. Consider using face mask and eye protection if risk is high ie. Cleaning areas where there are visible bodily fluids.
- Clean public areas as normal (e.g. corridors)
- Surfaces that could be contaminated and all frequently touched surfaces (e.g door handles, taps, devises, etc) need cleaning and disinfection.
- Use disposable cloths or paper roll, disposable mop heads to clean hard surfaces (e.g. floors, sanitary fittings, chairs, tables)
- Use a combined detergent and disinfectant or use a two-stage cleaning process of detergent (household type cleaner) followed by a hypochlorite solution (1000ppm) e.g. diluted milton. [Check chemicals in use are effective against enveloped viruses]

Avoid splashes and spray when cleaning where possible.

Waste: Any COVID-19 related waste should be double-bagged and stored for 72 hours before usual disposal.



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: seek a follow-up PCR test following an LFD positive test at home or at an assisted site. Case, household and contacts identified in the setting should isolate whilst waiting for the PCR result. If the PCR is negative, and the case remains symptom free, case and contacts can stop isolating.

NB: If any staff or pupils develop COVID19 symptoms ALWAYS seek a PCR test. LFD tests should not be used on people with symptoms. LFD tests should not be used on children under the age of 11 years old.



Five key