

Covid-19 update for Educational Settings

With the winter season upon us, it is necessary to take all precautions to reduce the spread of infection in the community. This document aims to support and review some key points which help in preventing the spread of the virus and keeping staff and children Coronavirus/Covid-19 free, so that education settings can stay open and be a safe learning environment.

Covid 19 Symptoms

It is important to remember the three symptoms of Coronavirus, these are:

A new continuous cough

Fever

Loss of taste and smell (Anosmia) – if any of these symptoms are displayed, Public Health advise getting a Coronavirus test.

There are 3 test centres across Swindon:

Wroughton Park and Ride, Broadgreen Community Centre and at the Civic Offices off Beckhampton Street.

Infection control principles:

A revisit of the 5 key principals that need to be applied to prevent the spread of the virus in school and the community.



Reporting suspected or confirmed case.

If there is a suspected case in your setting the first thing to do is isolate that individual from others, to prevent immediate spread. Send them home and advise getting a Covid 19 test.

School **is not** required to do anything else at this point until the person concerned is confirmed to have a positive test.

If the test comes back negative and the individual feels well, they can come back to school as normal.

If the test is positive and you require advice or support, call the DFE advice line on 08000468687. Always inform of any incident or outbreak to Swindon Public Health Covid Response Team; covidresponse@swindon.gov.uk. Please complete this [form](#), when contacting the Swindon Covid Team. This information helps the Covid and the Education Team to keep a record of incidents in the town and helps us understand the level of support each setting requires. The SBC Covid team aim to get back to you on the same day to offer support and guidance.

The [flow chart](#) is the latest version to support education settings manage Covid 19 suspected and confirmed cases.

The Public Health England [acute respiratory infection management guidelines](#) for educational settings sets out how schools can define cases and contacts to minimise further spread.

The majority of the support schools request from the Covid team is around defining how to manage outbreaks, work out close contacts of the positive case or to work out isolation dates and periods.

Who is a contact:

A person who spends significant time in the same household as a person who tested positive.

A person who has been within 2m of someone who has been tested positive for more than 15mins.

A person who has had face to face contact within 1m of someone who has been tested positive or they have been coughed on, had face to face conversation, had skin to skin or physical contact.

Been in contact within 1m for 1 minute or longer without face to face contact.

Isolation periods: If an individual is a confirmed case and they have covid symptoms they must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If they are asymptomatic they must isolate for 10 days from the date they were tested.

Individuals who have been identified as contacts need to isolate for 14 days. Household members of the individual start their 14 day isolation from the first day the person in the house developed symptoms. Asymptomatic cases start 14 day isolation from the date of the test.

How are the dates calculated:

Please note these calculations follow Public Health England guidance.

Example; *if Person A develops symptoms on Monday, 23.11.20, this person's most infectious period (when he/she is at most risk of infecting others) is 2 days prior to onset of symptoms and up to 10 days after, hence the 10 day isolation for a positive case. Isolation date starts Tuesday 24.11 as the first day and Thursday 3.12 is the last day of isolation. Person A can go out from 4.12*

Onset of Symptoms = Day 0 - 23.11.20

First day of isolation 24.11.20 (+9days) = 10days of Isolation = 03.12.20

Day 11 Return to school – 04.12.20

If Person A was in close contact with people on 21.11 and 22.11 they will be considered contacts and at risk of been infected, hence they will need to isolate for 14 days from the respective date they were

in close proximity to person A. Their 14 day isolation will end 05.12. (if last contact 21.11) and they can come out of isolation (return to school) on 06.12. If the last contact was 22.11 their isolation ends 06.12 and they can return to their setting on 07.12

Contact with positive case = Day 0 - 21.11.20

First day of isolation 22.11.20 (+13 days) = 14days of Isolation = 05.12.20

Day 15 Return to school – 06.12.20

This guidance provides information to parents and advises they keep their children out of school if they or the child are unwell or either have been confirmed as a positive case.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We strongly advise schools send parents a firm and clear message on keeping children at home if they feel unwell. Especially over the winter period.

Do Not send your child to school, if they are unwell, you too should not go to work if you feel unwell over this winter period. **Everyone** in the household must immediately isolate, if a member of that household has Covid symptoms and awaiting test results.

How to minimise contacts and reduce isolation of staff and students:

Having looked at a range of risk assessments and process that Swindon schools put in place when they were preparing for the September school opening, we were pleased and assured our schools are Covid safe. However recently we have been seeing large outbreaks and large numbers of students having to isolate.

With advice from PHE and liaising with schools across Swindon who have small or limited number of students out, we have developed a list of how some schools can review their practice and enforce stricter measures.

Some examples of how isolation numbers can be kept to a minimum:

1. Organise pupils in smaller bubbles.
2. Organise and enforce seating plans for all sessions, including tutor time.
3. Enforce social distancing of 2m in the classroom.
4. Restrict movement within lessons.
5. Consider staggered start and finish times
6. Consider staggered lunch and break times.
7. Use out door spaces at lunch and break times.
8. Restrict teaching in open plan areas.
9. Ensure there is good ventilation in the classrooms
10. Wear face covering in shared areas of the setting.
11. Regular cleaning process procedures in shared toilets and shared areas.



Look after their and your health and wellbeing

On a final note it is vitally important that amidst coping with this pandemic you take into account your wellbeing and that of your staff. There are many sources of support and information, such as guidance on looking after your [mental health and wellbeing](#) and on supporting [children and young people](#). If you would like further support and guidance please contact us PublicHealth@swindon.gov.uk or visit the [Swindon Healthy Schools](#) website.