

Step 4 – Covid Restrictions in Education Settings

Further Covid restrictions in education settings will end Step 4, which starts Monday 19th July. However up to July 19th please apply all [current guidance for school operations](#).

This is how it will impact education settings.

1. Bubbles will end for all children under 18.
2. **Settings will no longer need to undertake contact tracing from the 19th of July.**
This will be completed by NHS T&T following positive PCR, but is likely to be limited to the cases household and social contacts.
(In summary a positive LFT needs to be reported to the setting by parents, this is followed up by a PCR test. If the PCR is positive NHS T&T will do the contact tracing. If the LFT is taken in the setting and is positive, then they need to send the student home to get a follow up PCR – settings do not need to do the contract tracing any more).
3. Social distancing will no longer be necessary.
4. Schools will not need to stagger start and finish times.
5. In all schools we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
6. Face coverings **are recommended** to be worn on dedicated transport when prevalence is high.

Education settings can continue with existing measures and arrangements until the end of term should they wish to.

If your setting is operating over the summer, you will need to continue testing twice a week, with asymptomatic test kits which will still be available to families over the summer break.

These are further changes that will impact education settings from **16 August**.

1. Legal requirements to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18, and for adults who have **been fully vaccinated**.
This means that from the autumn term, only those who test positive will need to self-isolate. **We highly recommend you urge all staff to be fully vaccinated before the start of the autumn term** - Not being vaccinated also increases their personal risk of severe illness.
2. Individuals identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test, and only need to isolate if they test positive. Children must self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid or a positive test result.
3. Protective measures will remain in place for the autumn term in all education settings including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular testing until the end of September to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to children's education.

Education settings will continue to have an outbreak management plan, Swindon PH team will support you, as is current standard practice. Local Directors of Public Health may advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures in the event of an outbreak.

All school trips, drama, music and sporting activity will be able to resume in line with the relaxation of restrictions across society from Step 4.

This is the [updated guidance which takes effect from 19th July.](#)

These are the new template letters for use from Monday:



Tracing Letter to
Parents and Guardi



advice to isolate
outbreak.docx



advice to isolate
continuing CT.docx



Warn and
inform.docx

Swindon Public Health recommendations of Step 4 plans in Education Settings:

1. Continue to inform us of all positive cases, we have amended our [proforma](#). Simply complete this and email it to us on covidresponse@swindon.gov.uk
2. We encourage you to keep a record of the positive cases and those isolating in your settings.
3. We encourage you to advise all staff to be fully vaccinated by the start of the summer term.
4. We encourage you to have an outbreak plan in place.
5. We encourage you to review your risk assessments.
6. We also encourage you to continue with good hygiene practice, good ventilation around the setting, and regular testing until the end of September.