



COVID 19 FAQs

What happens if I have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days?

Children, pupils, students, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days. All staff must follow this process having been made aware of it.

What happens if someone becomes unwell while at school?

If anyone in school 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 '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Where does someone go in school if they are unwell and are waiting to be picked up?

All schools will have a nominated room for this. It will also be highlighted in the school's opening management plan that will be shared with you. The guidance is clear that 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 and needs of the child, 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 someone is waiting to be collected and they need the bathroom, where do they go?

A separate bathroom/toilet should be used wherever possible. The site team must be informed so that it can be isolated, cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

Do I need to wear PPE if I am looking after someone who is unwell before they get picked up to go home?

PPE must 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). More information on PPE use can be found in the [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) guidance](#).

What do I do if I suspect someone is unwell with COVID-19?

You must report it immediately by phoning the head teacher or the most senior designated person in the head teacher's absence. As is usual practice, in an emergency, call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. After having done that, call the head teacher or their designated person. Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If I've helped someone with symptoms what should I do? Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms or any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

What's happening with hand-washing etc.?

Everyone must wash their hands regularly and thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. Each school will build in routines in their usual working day. This will be shared with you in your 'back to school training'. NB Washing of hands, thoroughly, must take place after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household bleach after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance.

How will you manage the start of the day if you test the temperature of children?

We won't be testing the temperature of children as they arrive because Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).

What if a child refuses to sanitise their hands?

The precise follow up will be determined by the school's behaviour policy. Like anything, persistent ignorance of school rules (and, in this case, national guidance) will not be tolerated. We will not compromise anyone's health through defiance unless there are specific circumstances such as those with complex needs or an EHCP that details such behaviours. In this case a specific risk assessment for the child should be in place from the SENCo.

Will you provide face masks for all the children?

No. Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence is being kept under review. If staff and students want to wear a face mask, this will be allowed. There will be a protocol for the appropriate disposing/storing of masks worn on public transport.

Will there be an enhanced cleaning rota?

Yes, and this will obviously be school specific.

Shouldn't we be making the groups smaller and having rotas to keep us safe?

The latest guidance makes clear the DFE preference not to have rotas due to the detriment this might have on the child's education, given they have already missed half of a school year. The guidance also permits larger teaching groups, supported by Public Health England, so long as other protective measures are adhered to.

What will happen about assemblies?

The guidance says that "schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group" so each school will hold assemblies in their bubbles or by other means in order to keep the group together and avoid contact with others.

What will you do about staffrooms and shared staff spaces? This is school-specific but we expect that they "are set up and used to help staff to distance from each other." Each school's plans will be outlined in the management plan that will be shared with you.

Are you working with NHS Test and Trace?

Yes, we registered with them as soon as it went live. We must work with them and part of planning covers ensuring you understand your role and responsibilities as detailed in the guidance: Schools must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local Public Health England health protection team. Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

What do I do with my test result?

You should tell us immediately and the same will apply to the children and any family member that is tested.

What will happen if my child gets sent home from school and isn't symptomatic?

The guidance says that "Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms." However, if this becomes a problem for you and the child can't be left alone then please phone your school straight away so they can better understand how to help.

How will we ensure we are all risk-free?

We can't. In the same way we could never say you free from the risk of getting a cold or the flu, there are risks all around us in all forms. All we can do is our best to work within the guidance from the Government and produce the best, detailed plans we can through the thorough scrutiny we've adopted so far.

What happens if we have more than one confirmed case in any one school?

We have to work with the health protection team who will advise if additional action is required. In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group. If each school is rigorously implementing controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

Will the school be able to run an educational visit?

The guidance currently states that "We continue to advise against domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits at this stage see coronavirus: travel guidance for educational settings. In the autumn term, schools can resume non-overnight domestic educational visits." So currently you can run day visits but not overnight. If you would like to run one then you must talk to your EVC

about the reasons for it. You must, before you discuss it with your EVC, have consulted the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

Are we to expect children back in uniform?

Yes, although each school is making adaptations to suit the current context.

What about my mental health when dealing with children's' mental health?

All staff have been advised of how they seek support which is through their HR Advisor who can support and/or sign post specific help. Alternatively, you can use the Employee Counselling Helpline- 0117 934 2121. Or the organisations listed below <https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/>
<https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/>

What happens if there's another spike and we have to lockdown?

If we have a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, the appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support those authorities and us to follow the health advice. The DfE will provide more information on this process in due course but I've already read the information about Leicester and I presume the DfE are using this information to build plans for other areas. In the case of either full or individual/class/pod isolation you will need to have remote learning available to educate the children in the way you were in lockdown.

What are you doing about respiratory hygiene?

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, so the individual schools must ensure that they have enough tissues and bins available to support pupils, students and staff to follow this routine. Tissues (and hand sanitiser) are to be added to the list of essential items brought to school by children/pupils.

How will toilets/water fountains/door handles be sanitised?

This will be covered through the enhanced cleaning rota on each site. In some cases, water fountains will be taken out of use.

I'm interested to know about parking?

Do I have to have a certain gap between myself and other cars? There is no requirement to create additional parking space. That said, all those who use cars have a moral responsibility to observe social distancing if they arrive at the same time as someone else and also happen to park in the adjacent space.

Will toilets (staff and student) be cordoned off?

How will we know that these are being kept as clean as we would like? This is a question for each of the sites as they'll have site specific arrangements. Again, these are a work in progress but we have enhanced the cleaning rota to ensure that they are cleaned throughout the day; especially after break, lunch and end of day. That said, the guidance is that cubicles are ok to use and they'll be cleaned in the enhanced rota.

Will you clear out the clutter in the rooms to make more space?

We will make sure each site removes anything that stops the class from having as much space as possible and to provide the adults with sufficient space.

What will you do about re-opening and checking everything is safe?

Firstly, we cannot make it perfectly safe. I think I've already mentioned that there will inevitably be risks but what's most important is that we've consulted and listened and built robust risk assessments and control measures to mitigate those risks. If you spot anything you think is amiss then you must report it - it's the only way we can make sure that risk assessments remain live documents

Who is involved in the Risk Assessment Process?

All stakeholders have a voice through our sharing and feedback. We also share with all professional associations and trade unions for comment given the legal requirement to do so. It is signed off by governors

Will teachers be required to continue planning for home learning and classroom teaching at the same time?

Good question and we completely understand the concerns people may have about this. We're obviously focused on staff mental health and workload - we haven't lost sight of that and will factor both elements of planning. If we're working on the basis of everyone in then there'll only be remote learning if we're instructed to lockdown so it should be one or the other method rather than both simultaneously.

What do we do if children miss lessons through self-isolation?

Our remote learning has proved to be very good and accessible in many different ways, so we need to make sure it's available to those who are not able to attend. The guidance states "remote education, where needed, is high quality and aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision: schools and other settings continue to build their capability to educate pupils remotely, where this is needed". Our school is promoting the use of Oak National Academy, wherever possible to support in this area.

Are we expected to reduce the curriculum?

No. The guidance states "the curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment" but we have to accept that some modification to what we deliver, and when, may be required. Some schools may consider it appropriate to suspend some subjects for some pupils in exceptional circumstances. If that's the case you should be able to show that this is in the best interests of these pupils and this should be subject to discussion with parents during the autumn term.

What's happening with assessments and examinations next year?

Ofqual have opened their consultation. We await further guidance.

How do we teach music?

The guidance at the moment states "Schools should note that there may be an additional risk of infection in environments where you or others are singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments or shouting. This applies even if individuals are at a distance. Schools should consider how to reduce the risk, particularly when pupils are playing instruments or singing in small groups such as in music lessons by, for example, physical distancing and playing outside wherever possible, positioning pupils back-to-back or side-to-side, avoiding sharing of instruments, and ensuring good ventilation. Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies. Furthermore, detailed DfE guidance will be published shortly" so we will wait for this guidance.

What should we do about clubs and breakfast clubs etc.?

This is a school-specific question but the guidance states that we "should consider resuming any breakfast and after-school provision, where possible, from the start of the autumn term. We recognise that schools may need to respond flexibly and build this up over time. Such provision will help ensure pupils have opportunities to re-engage with their peers and with the school, ensure vulnerable children have a healthy breakfast and are ready to focus on their lessons, provide enrichment activities, and also support working parents." That said, it could be logistically challenging particularly if the club offers cross-year group provision. We need time to make sure we can make this work alongside our protective measures.

How can we support students if we are having to be distant from them?

Social distancing must be observed.