

The Management of Covid-19 within Educational Settings

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (to be used with LA Flow Chart)

1) Q: What do I need to do if I have a child/young person or member of staff who is symptomatic or tests positive for Covid-19?

A: Please follow the most up to date Local Authority flow chart to manage cases and notify public health teams. Please note you **no longer** have to notify the LA of symptomatic cases but you must keep your own internal record of case details including date of start of symptoms, date last in setting, result of test and follow up action where necessary.

2) Q: How do I know if a child or staff member has coronavirus symptoms and needs to be tested?

A: The key symptoms are:

- A high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (temperature does not need to be measured)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing frequently for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if someone usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Runny noses and sore throats without fever are common at this time of year and children with just these symptoms do not need to be tested. See full guidance from Royal College of Paediatricians for more advice.

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-talking-children-families-about-returning-school-guiding-principles?s=09#common-cold-and-covid-19-symptoms>

The following comparison chart may be useful to recognise the difference in symptoms.

Symptom	Coronavirus <i>Symptoms can range from mild to severe</i>	Cold <i>Gradual onset of symptoms</i>	Flu <i>Abrupt onset of symptoms</i>
Fever	COMMON	RARE	COMMON
Fatigue	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	COMMON
Cough	COMMON	MILD	COMMON
Sneezing	NO	COMMON	NO
Aches & pains	SOMETIMES	COMMON	COMMON
Runny or stuff nose	RARE	COMMON	SOMETIMES
Sore throat	SOMETIMES	COMMON	SOMETIMES
Diarrhoea	RARE	NO	SOMETIMES FOR CHILDREN
Headache	SOMETIMES	RARE	COMMON
Shortness of breath	SOMETIMES	NO	NO

Adapted from World Health Organisation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

3) Q: How do you arrange a test?

A: Parents/carers can book a test for their children or themselves online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. They will be directed to their nearest walk-in/drive in centre. They can also request a home-test that can be posted – although this will take longer to get the result.

4) Q: What is a close contact?

A: A 'close contact' is a term used in public health to describe a person who has significant contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, which would put them at significantly increased risk of acquiring the diseases. When close contacts isolate it helps to stop the spread of the infection. Public health officials sometimes need to undertake detailed assessments to identify close contacts. The latest guidance for close contacts is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

5) Q: When does the 10 days isolation period for a positive case start?

A: The 10 days begin from the first day of onset of symptoms.

6) Q: When does the 14 days isolation start for close contacts?

A: The 14 days **start** from the **last** time the pupil/staff member was in contact with the positive case, in or out of your setting.

7) Q: What is counted as the 48 hour infectious period?

A: Up to and including the two days before the first day of onset of symptoms e.g. If the symptoms of the positive case begin on a Saturday you should include contacts during Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

8) Q: Where can Schools or Further Education Settings order more tests?

A: See link below for more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers#making-an-order-for-additional-coronavirus-tests>