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

Version 10 2021.03.30

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.

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

GUIDANCE: Visit https://coronavirus-schools The action card for your setting can be found here: https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/reporting-an-outbreak/resources/Education-Action-Cards/ FOR TESTING: Visit nhs.uk/ask-for-a-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

If the

CONFIRMED

case has not

been in the

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.

POSSIBLE case in child or staff member

Only contact the DfE if you need support. Reasons for support may be:

1) The possible case has

been admitted to Hospital

2) The possible case can't or won't get tested.

IF the CHILD

is in the

setting -

Isolate away

from others

and send

home.

(Refer to PPE

guidance if

personal care

is required

within 2m)

Positive for

COVID-19

FOLLOW THE

CONFIRMED

CASE process

If the possible case is a household or an enduring contact of a confirmed case, seek advice from DFE or your local authority.

Ensure the case isolates for 10 days, arranges a **PCR** test and informs you of the result. Household (and support/childcare bubble if active) of the possible case should also isolate for 10 days.

Other close contacts (e.g. classroom contacts) do not need to isolate for a possible case

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. Household can stop selfisolating and carry on as normal.

Five key principles

2. Wash your hands! Catch your coughs!

All of these measures help to prevent the spread of infection and will therefore protect staff and children

CONFIRMED case in child or staff member

Follow the relevant Action Card for your setting and base your actions on the DfE schools guidance.

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

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 (and support/ childcare bubble if active) of the case isolates for 10 days.

Identify close contacts and self-isolate for 10 days from last contact with case.

Household of contacts do not need to isolate.

If positive test came from an LFD test (taken at home or in school), case should take a follow-up PCR within 48 hours of the LFD.

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

Cases & contacts can return once the isolation period is completed.

2 or more CONFIRMED cases in the same group or class

Follow the relevant Action Card for your setting and online guidance. The Local Authority teams can provide support as well as the HPT IF you need it.

Ensure the cases isolate for 10 days .

Household (and support/ childcare bubble if active) of the cases isolate for 10 days.

Identify close contacts and self-isolate for 10 days from last contact with case.
Household of contacts do not need to isolate.

Clean and disinfect affected rooms / areas – ensure appropriate PPE (minimum gloves and apron) are used.

* Refer to cleaning guidance available on gov.uk

Contact PHE SW HPT on 0300 303 8162 if:

- The no. cases exceeds 5 within 14 days
- You've taken all the action outlined but are still seeing more cases in the setting
- You think you may need to close due to numbers affected
- Someone in setting has been admitted to hospital
- You are getting significant media interest

Possible and confirmed case definition

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.

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.