

What to do if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in school: 29 November 2021

Scenario 1: Student or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 (fever > 37.8 OR new continuous cough OR loss of taste and / or smell) whilst at home

School to advise that staff member of staff or student should:

- not return to school for at least 10 days and should follow guidance for [households with possible coronavirus infection](#).
- Get tested as soon as symptoms start via the [NHS testing website](#) or calling 119

Scenario 2: Student or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 (fever > 37.8 OR new continuous cough OR loss of taste and / or smell) whilst at school

They must be sent home and advised to follow the guidance for [households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, the school should also follow the [schools operational guidance](#)

Scenario 3: Student or staff tests positive as part of asymptomatic testing in schools

School to follow scenario 2 above. If confirmatory PCR test is negative, the positive individual and any close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace can return to school.

Scenario 4: Staff member is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (but does not live in the same household) AND has been identified via NHS test and trace AND has been told to self-isolate AND does not meet the close contact self-isolation exemptions

The staff member must stay at home and not come to school, and should follow guidance for [contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus who do not live with the person](#), including self-isolating for 10 days and getting [tested](#).

Does a child or staff member develop symptoms in the next 10 days?

No further action – after 10 days the student or staff member can return to school

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT ACTION

NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT

Staff members or students can return to school as long as they are not required to self-isolate because they have been contacted by [NHS Test and Trace](#) (see self-isolation exemptions below).

Managing a confirmed case of Covid-19 at school involves:

- Validating if case was in school during 'infectious period'
- Follow advice on the [Omicron variant and local response plan](#)
- Advising positive individual to self-isolate for 10 days and to follow guidance for [households with possible coronavirus infection](#)
- Following advice from [NHS Test and Trace](#) and [NHS Test and Trace in the Workplace](#) including that around close contacts (schools no longer need to identify close contacts). Primary schools should consider contacting families of any close contacts to encourage PCR testing. If a school identifies that an unvaccinated staff member is a close contact of a covid case, that staff member should isolate even if they have not yet been contacted by NHS Test and Trace
- Follow guidance on [cleaning](#) as required
- Escalating as below those cases that meet DfE Thresholds
- Following guidance on the [Test and Trace support payment scheme](#)

DfE Thresholds:

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students, or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students, and staff at any one time:

- 2 children, pupils, students, and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

All school settings:

Any Covid related hospitalisations

See close mixing examples to the right of this flowchart.

Action required if DfE Thresholds are met:

- Contact the LCRC for any additional advice (0300 303 0450).** The DfE assists schools before any thresholds are met (0800 046 8687).
- Review and reinforce the testing, hygiene, and ventilation measures already in place.
- Consider whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes.
- Consider ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort.
- Consider one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment.
- Consider strengthened communications encouraging pupils/students to undertake twice weekly rapid asymptomatic home testing and reporting
- Consider reintroducing face coverings as a temporary measure (for 2 wks)

***For all cases: Please report in writing to ALL listed below**

schoolshealthandsafety@ealing.gov.uk
Raj Chowdhury, ChowdhuryR@ealing.gov.uk or 07568 130165
Steve Dunham, DunhamS@ealing.gov.uk or 07940 546 263
using the Covid case [school notification reckoner form](#)

Close Mixing Examples:

For early years, this could include:

- a childminder minding children, including their own
- childminders working together on the same site
- a nursery class
- a friendship group who often play together
- staff and children taking part in the same activity session together

For schools, this could include:

- a form group or subject class
- a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- a sports team
- a group in an after-school activity

For wraparound childcare or out-of-school settings, this could include:

- a private tutor or coach offering one-to-one tuition to a child, or to multiple children at the same time
- staff and children taking part in the same class or activity session together
- children who have slept in the same room or dormitory together

Close Contact Self-Isolation Exemptions:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate (see note below on Omicron variant) if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

OMICRON VARIANT:

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.