

What to do if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in school: 24 Feb 2022

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:
Self-isolate and follow guidance for [People with Covid-19 and their contacts guidance](#)
Get PCR 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 [People with Covid-19 and their contacts guidance](#) including taking a PCR test.
If a child is awaiting collection, [government guidance](#) should be followed and the pupil moved to a ventilated isolation room.

Scenario 3: Student or staff tests positive as part of asymptomatic testing in schools (SEND settings, AP settings and SEND units within mainstream settings)

School to follow scenario 2 above. No confirmatory PCR test is required, however.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT ACTION

NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT

Staff members or students can return to school as long as they do not have a high temperature

Managing a confirmed case of Covid-19 at school:

- Positive individuals to follow [People with Covid-19 and their contacts guidance](#). Self-isolation period of 10 days can be reduced if consecutive negative lateral flow tests results are obtained subject to the guidance above- see *reducing self-isolation period chart at the bottom left of this flowchart*.
- Follow guidance on [cleaning](#) as required.
- Following any [local response plan](#).
- Escalating as below those cases that meet DfE Thresholds.

NEW DfE THRESHOLDS:

For most education and childcare settings:

- Higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection
- Evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child, or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19
- A cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of [vulnerable staff or students](#) within the affected group

For special schools, alternative provision, SEND/AP units within schools and colleges, open and secure children's homes 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 and/or there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable individuals within the affected group

See close mixing examples (relevant to SEND/AP units only) to the right of this flowchart.

Action required if DfE Thresholds are met:

- Contact the LCRC (0300 303 0450) or DfE (0800 046 8687) for any additional advice

**The local authority no longer needs to know about individual cases in schools. Contact us if you:

- Require support to implement any measures
- Are concerned that despite implementing measures, you are continuing to see high numbers of new cases
- Have any Covid related hospitalisations or deaths
- Are facing operational difficulties
- Have any other concerns
- Are no longer implementing additional measures as a result of meeting DfE Covid thresholds
- Are considering any form of closure

Email: schoolshealthandsafety@ealing.gov.uk
Raj Chowdhury, ChowdhuryR@ealing.gov.uk or 07568 130165
Steve Dunham, DunhamS@ealing.gov.uk or 07940 546 263

Close Mixing Examples (SEND/AP only):

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

(Press the control key and the mouse button together to activate the links if they do not work automatically when clicked)

Reducing self-isolation period chart:

Day	How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days
0*	Stay at home
1-4	Stay at home
5	Take an LFD test <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">LFD is negative, stay at home</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">LFD is positive, stay at home</div> </div>
6	Take an LFD test <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">LFD is negative return to normal routine**</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">LFD is negative, stay at home</div> </div>
7	Take an LFD test <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">LFD is negative return to normal routine**</div>

*Day your symptoms started or your test was taken if you do not have symptoms
 **You can return to your normal routine if you do not have a high temperature