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**COVID-19 September 2020 FAQ**

**What are the key messages from the Department of Education?**

* Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
* Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual.
* Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
* Introduce enhanced cleaning regimes including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

**What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

* a new and persistent cough or
* a high temperature or
* loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia),

**What do I do if I have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms?**

You must not come into school if you have [coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus) or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days. You must follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance), which sets out that you should self-isolate for at least 10 days and you should [arrange to have a test](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested) to see if you have coronavirus (COVID-19). The school can also arrange a test for you if it proves difficult for you to manage.

If you test negative and feel well and no longer have symptoms of COVID-19 you can stop self-isolating. Other household members can stop self- isolating. You should return to school if you feel well.

If you test positive, you should contact the school and you should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms and return to school only if do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

If you test positive the school will contact the local health protection team for guidance.

The health protection team will work with the school in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Close contact means:

* direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
* proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
* travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

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.

If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance). They should get a test, and:

* if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
* if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)

**What happens if I develop symptoms during the school day?**

Anyone who develops symptoms during the school day will be sent home. They must follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Do members of my household need to self-isolate?**

Yes, other members of your household should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

**What is the process if a child develops symptoms in school?**

If a child is awaiting collection, they will 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. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, then they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

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)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe) guidance.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and 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 or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings).

**Will face coverings be worn in school?**

The government does not recommend universal use of face coverings in school. Where the use of a face covering is appropriate due to the needs of the child, this will be detailed in the child’s risk assessment.

**Will children and staff remain in their class bubble?**

Yes. Children will be taught in their class bubble for much of the time however, in some cases, extended bubbles may be created (amalgamation of 2 classes) of no more than 20 to 25 pupils to manage playground constraints. Staff may work within more than one bubble for timetabling reasons however, they will be deployed consistently in school.

Large gatherings e.g. assemblies will not take place. Pupils will play with children within their bubble/extended bubble so that contact with others is minimised.

**What procedures are in place when pupils arrive and leave school?**

Pupils will be collected by a member of staff from their bus/from the reception in accordance with a planned process to minimise the number of pupils/staff congregating in any one area.

**Will Educational Visits take place?**

No, educational visits off-site including swimming will take place during the Autumn term. We will review this at October half term.

**Will staff wear personal protective equipment (PPE)**

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, including:

* where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained
* where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involve the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used
* where PPE is required as part of their individual risk assessment or behaviour management plan.

**Must my child attend school?**

The expectation from the government is that most children should be able to return to school. We appreciate, that a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend, because the clinical advice they have received indicates they should remain at home. Pupils advised to stay at home may have been advised not to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).

Pupils will be provided with remote education for the time they remain at home.

**What support will be provided if pupils and families are anxious about returning?**

We will work closely with you to discuss concerns, provide reassurance, and put plans in place to reduce risk and plan a way forward. These are unprecedented times and we will work with you to ensure our school is welcoming, safe and a fun place of learning for all of our 300 pupils.