

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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FAQ for parents and carers (September 2020)

What are Covid-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

From the available evidence Public Health England believe that children with simple cold symptoms such as runny noses or sore throats without fever who would normally have attended schools in other times should not be tested for COVID-19.'

Please see link for symptoms: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

What is the mode of transmission?

Covid-19 is passed from person to person mainly by large respiratory droplets and direct contact (close unprotected contact, usually less than one metre). These droplets can be directly inhaled by the person or can land on surfaces which another person may touch which can lead to infection if they then touch their nose, mouth or eyes.

What is the incubation period?

The incubation period (i.e. time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms) is between 1 and 14 days (median 5 days).

When is a person infectious?

A person is thought to be infectious 48 hours before symptoms appear, and up to seven days after they start displaying symptoms.

What does close contact mean?

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).
- 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.

When does the isolation period start for a close contact?

The isolation period starts on the day the contact was last in touch with the positive case. So, if Contact A was last in close contact with Case B on September 1, isolation would start on September 1 and end on September 14 meaning Contact A could return on September 15 (assuming contact A remains well).



If setting has been notified of symptomatic pupil/staff member, should the rest of the class/bubble be excluded?

No, the class/bubble should continue to attend school as normal. The symptomatic case should stay at home and follow the stay at home guidance: the staff member/pupil's parents encouraged to get tested. Any siblings of the pupil attending school/staff's household member should self-isolate for 14 days

Should a pupil/staff member come to school if a member of their household is unwell?

No. If a member of the pupil's/staff member's household is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms then the pupil/staff member should isolate for 14 days starting from the day the household member(s) became ill. If the pupil subsequently develops symptoms then they should isolate for 10 days from the date they developed symptoms. See [Stay-at-home-guidance](#). The household member(s) should be tested within 5 days of symptom onset. If all symptomatic household members test negative, the pupil/staff member can return to work/school.

Can the siblings of a pupil who is self-isolating because they are a contact of a case attend school?

Yes, other household members of the contact do not need to self-isolate unless the pupil, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms

If a pupil has COVID-19 symptoms, gets tested and tests negative, can they return to school even if they still have symptoms?

If the pupil is NOT a known contact of a confirmed case the pupil can return to the education if the result is negative, provided they feel well, and they have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If the pupil is a contact of a confirmed case, they must self-isolate for the 14-day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point within the 14 days (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if a pupil tests negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection.

If a pupil who was a contact of a confirmed case tests negative, can they return to the educational setting?

No, the pupil must complete 14 days of isolation. They may develop symptoms at a later stage within the 14 day period.

If the school has confirmed cases does the whole bubble need to be isolated?

This will depend on the size of the bubble and importantly if the case has been in school 48 hours before onset of symptoms – if bubbles are usually restricted to one class who do not mix with other pupil during breaks, then in general, this bubble would isolate. Public Health England and Central Bedfordshire Council will advise the school on the next steps.

If the school has confirmed cases does the education setting need to close?

The school does not need to close on public health grounds. The school will generally only need to close if they have staff shortages due to illness or being identified as contacts. It is expected that only the class of a confirmed case will need to be sent home. If there are a number of confirmed cases across different classes and year groups at the same time, then the education setting may be advised to close by the Health Protection Team in consultation with other partners.

What happens if the parent of a pupil at school/ a partner of my staff member/ the child of my staff member is symptomatic?

The pupil and/ or staff member should start a period of 14 days of isolation and those with symptoms get tested. No further action at school is required. If the test comes back **negative**, then as long as no one has symptoms in the household (other than cough or loss of smell/ taste), the pupil or staff member can return to the education setting.

If pupil/staff member tests **positive**, then the bubble/ close contacts of the pupil/staff member are required to isolate if that pupil/ staff member had attended the education setting in the 48 hours prior to developing symptoms. In this event, close contacts will be identified and advised regarding self-isolation.

What happens if a staff member/pupil has Covid-19 symptoms but feels well the next day and is unable to qualify for a Covid-19 test. Can the staff member/pupil return to school and can their household end their 14-day isolation?

The pupil/staff member should complete the 10-day self-isolation and the household should self-isolate for 14 days because they are contacts of the pupil/staff member. If the symptoms disappear and 119 confirmed that they do not qualify for a Covid-19 test, then they should book a test through the website for the entire household.

The pupil/staff member and their household can only return to work/school if they have a negative test and they feel well and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If they are unable to obtain a test, then they should complete the isolation period of 10 days and 14 days for the household to be on the safe side.

To book a test online please select the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Should close contacts of a positive case get tested?

No, they are not required to get tested unless they develop symptoms during the 14 days of isolation.

Should school ask parents to report pupils' temperatures at the start of each day?

Parents, carers and settings do not need to take pupil's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).

Testing

How can a parent/staff member arrange testing?

The parent can arrange for any pupil to be tested via [NHS UK](#) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access. A staff member can also arrange for a test using the same number above.

What if a parent refuses to get their child tested?

Parents will be advised to get their child tested if they have Covid-19 symptoms. A test is not compulsory however, it is advised in order to ascertain whether the pupil has Covid-19 symptoms and in order to establish whether the entire bubble should self-isolate for 14 days.

If a pupil gets tested and it is negative the pupil can return to the school before 10-day isolation period ends only if they feel well and they do not have a fever for 48 hours

Will the school be informed of any test results?

The education setting will be informed if a pupil or staff member tests positive as part of NHS Test and Trace. The education setting will not be informed of any negative results directly and therefore we request any test results are sent to us via email on info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk