



COVID-19 symptoms in pupils or staff

1. Immediately **isolate** the symptomatic pupil/member of staff. See control measures section in [the schools coronavirus operational guidance](#)
2. Arrange for the pupil to be collected from school. If a staff member, send them home.
3. **Use PPE** whilst the child / young person is awaiting collection if there is face to face contact (type IIR mask, risk assess eye protection) or physical contact (gloves, apron, type IIR mask, risk assess eye protection).
4. **Clean** areas which may have been contaminated: all surfaces which the symptomatic person may have had contact with. Dispose of potentially contaminated waste (used PPE, cleaning waste) in line with instructions. Refer to [Guidance on cleaning non-health settings](#)
5. Tell parents / member of staff to **book a PCR test**. The symptomatic person must follow [isolation guidance](#) until the PCR result is received (and thereafter, if the result is positive) and so must any adult household members not fully vaccinated, unless they are taking part in a vaccine trial or unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons. PCR tests are available via the [online coronavirus test booking service](#) or by calling 119.
6. All other **household members** should follow [national stay at home guidance for household contacts](#). Those exempt from self-isolation and aged 5 and over should test daily by LFD for 7 days or until the end of the infected person's self-isolation if earlier. Those not exempt from self-isolation should get a PCR test but must continue to self-isolate even if their PCR test is negative: see [self-isolation guidance](#).
7. Tell parents/member of staff to **notify the school** immediately of the result of the test and to keep the school updated on progress of the patient.
 - Those who receive a negative test result may return to school if they feel well and no longer have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Those who receive a positive test result should continue to self-isolate for 10 full days after the day of onset of symptoms / date of test if no symptoms and then return to school only if they have no symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste.

Positive COVID-19 test results

If the positive result is from a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, the individual must self-isolate and [a confirmatory PCR test](#) must be taken. If this is taken within 2 days of the LFD test and is negative, the individual can stop isolating and return to school.

NHS Test and Trace now conducts all contact tracing for positive test results. NHS Test and Trace may contact schools for help with contact tracing.

Close contacts are defined as: face-to-face within 1m; not face-to-face but within 1m for more than 1 minute; extended contact within 1-2m for more than 15 minutes either as a one-off contact or added up together over one day; travelling in a small vehicle with an infected person.

Identified close contacts may be exempt from self-isolation if they are: aged under 18 and 6 months; fully vaccinated adults (all recommended doses of MHRA-approved vaccine with final dose at least 14 days prior to exposure); with a medical reason for not being vaccinated; participants in approved vaccine trial. **Close contacts should follow [national self-isolation guidance for close contacts](#).** Those exempt from self-isolation and aged 5 and over should test daily by LFD for at least 7 days, or 10 days following the exposure if earlier. They should also follow [guidance on preventing spread of coronavirus](#).

Confirmed COVID-19: next steps

Schools should notify the Local Authority of all confirmed COVID-19 cases, with numbers self-isolating and year groups affected using [this form](#).

Schools should report confirmed cases to the DfE via the [attendance form daily return](#).

Schools no longer routinely need to contact the government's Self-Isolation Service Hub with staff close contact details. If an individual needs to self-isolate and could be eligible for a Test and Trace Support Payment, schools can consider phoning the Hub on 020 3743 6715 to provide their contact information.

If there are several cases, schools should consider whether the thresholds are met for further action as set out in the [Education Contingency Framework](#). The DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 option 1 can provide further advice and can escalate queries to the local Health Protection Team if required.