

# What to do if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in school: Dec 14 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)

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

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 (taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test), the positive individual can return to school.

**Scenario 4:** Non fully vaccinated staff member is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19

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 PCR [tested](#).

Does staff member develop symptoms in the next 10 days?

No further action – after 10 days the staff member can return to school as long as the PCR test was negative

**POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT ACTION**

**NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT**

Staff members or students can return to school if they are not required to self-isolate because they have been contacted by [NHS Test and Trace](#)

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

- Validating if case was in school during 'infectious period'
- Following advice from [NHS Test and Trace](#) and [NHS Test and Trace in the Workplace and the schools operating guidance](#). Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days (or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for Covid-19 if this is earlier) and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. If a school identifies that an unvaccinated staff member is a close contact of a positive covid case, that staff member should isolate even if they have not yet been contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- Positive individuals to self-isolate for 10 days and to follow guidance for [households with possible coronavirus infection](#) including taking a PCR test
- Follow guidance on [cleaning](#) as required
- Following the [local response plan](#)
- 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](mailto:schoolshealthandsafety@ealing.gov.uk)

Raj Chowdhury, [ChowdhuryR@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:ChowdhuryR@ealing.gov.uk) or 07568 130165

Steve Dunham, [DunhamS@ealing.gov.uk](mailto: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

**Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:**

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. Pupils with SEND identified as close contacts should be supported by their school and their families to agree the most appropriate route for testing including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing