

Covid-19 – Advice to Parents - Guidance for Schools and Early Years Settings

1. How to respond if a member of staff or pupil presents with symptoms while in school.

This information has been taken from the Gov.uk website – *‘What to do if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst at an educational setting’*:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The advice states:

If anyone (pupil or member of staff) develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in an education setting they must be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them 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 should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should 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).

Urgent advice can be sought from the NHS 111 line. In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

In addition, if the school receives information that the member of staff/pupil subsequently tests positive for Covid-19 symptoms, that class/cohort must self-

isolate as prescribed at the time by the NHS/PHE. The rest of the school population can remain in school. It is understood that under-5s can be tested for symptoms.

2. What to tell parents if a member of staff or pupil displays symptoms and/or tests positive.

If the enquiry specifically relates to an instance when a member of staff or pupil has displayed symptoms and the steps described above have been taken, the school will be able to inform parents that it has followed Government guidance and implemented those measures. Clearly, confidential information will not be shared.

General enquiries

Any school should be able to provide a parent with factual information on measures taken locally, predicated upon national and Local Authority guidance, to manage the current Covid-19 risk; moreover, parents can be directed to the GOV.uk website. Practice in Gloucestershire is that schools will publish their risk assessment on the school website.

Typically, the school will be able to give an assurance that it has undertaken a risk assessment and has in place a range of risk controls and hygiene measures to manage the risk. These will continue to operate and be monitored to ensure that they remain effective.

Parents could also be reminded that they have a responsibility to the school and wider community to follow NHS/Public Health England advice on measures implemented to manage the Covid-19 situation. The current information is available from these organisations' websites.

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