

Infection Control, Health and Safety Work Stream of the return to school working group - Guidance pack

This guidance has been prepared by Portsmouth City Council using government guidance informed by Public Health England.

Guidance	Guidance wording * we have found it is better in public communications to keep to the exact wording that is in the government guidance to avoid confusion and recommend we do so in the schools IPC guidance.	Web Link * advise including the government web link to ensure the most up to date guidance is accessible and not out of date.
Use of PPE in school and early years settings	<p>Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.</p> <p>The DfE guidance advises that early years and school settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

	<p>able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way • If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn 	
<p>Social distancing in school and early years settings</p>	<p>The government has issued no specific guidelines for the number of children that can access early year's provision from 1st June 2020. There is scientific evidence that children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus. The numbers returning will be lower than normal, which reduces the risk of infection. This, coupled with the fact that it would be extremely difficult for children to socially distance from each other, means that the advice for children and adults in settings will be different.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

	<p>We suggest that children are grouped into 'bubble groups', where they stay with the same children and staff all the time throughout the week. Staff should socially distance from each other during these times where they can, but socially distancing with the children will not always be possible.</p>	
<p>Hand and respiratory hygiene measures in schools and early years settings</p>	<p>In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges • cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered • ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach 	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach • minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times) 	
Regular cleaning and hygiene measures	<p>Read the guidance on safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care for more information about preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE.</p> <p>Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.</p> <p>All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:</p> <p>objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells • Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, following one of the options below: • use either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer’s instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants <p>or</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings</p> <p>and</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care</p> <p>and</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses <p>Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.</p> <p>Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.</p> <p>When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.</p> <p>Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of.</p>	
<p>Staff who should be 'shielding' or self-isolating due to their increased risk from coronavirus</p>	<p>Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are advised not to work outside the home. We are strongly advising people, including education staff, who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those with serious underlying health conditions which put them at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus and have been advised by their clinician or through a letter) to rigorously follow shielding measures in order to keep themselves safe. Staff in this position are advised not to attend work. Read COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable for more advice.</p> <p>Clinically vulnerable individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness (for example, people with some pre-existing conditions as set out in the Staying at home and away from others (social distancing) guidance have been advised to take extra care in observing social distancing and should work from home where possible. Education and childcare settings should endeavour to support this, for example by asking staff to support remote education, carry out lesson planning or other roles which can be done from</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing</p> <p>and</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

	<p>home. If clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) individuals cannot work from home, they should be offered the safest available on-site roles, staying 2 metres away from others wherever possible, although the individual may choose to take on a role that does not allow for this distance if they prefer to do so. If they have to spend time within 2 metres of other people, settings must carefully assess and discuss with them whether this involves an acceptable level of risk.</p>	
<p>Children who should be be 'shielding' or self-isolating due to their increased risk from coronavirus</p>	<p>For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>
<p>Children who have a household contact who are be 'shielding' or self-isolating due to their</p>	<p>If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

<p>increased risk from coronavirus</p>	<p>If a child, young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable guidance, it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home.</p>	
<p>What should we do when a child becomes symptomatic or has a household contact with symptoms of coronavirus</p>	<p>If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>

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).

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 with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7

days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and

	<p>control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.</p>	
<p>How can staff get a test as key workers</p>	<p>Online booking for testing for COVID-19 - The Portsmouth coronavirus testing site for essential workers no longer offers a drop-in service and you now need to book online for a test on the government's website.</p> <p>If you are working in a business critical role, you can book a test online for yourself or members of your household who are experiencing symptoms – a high temperature or new continuous cough.</p> <p>Options for testing are to book a test at a regional centre or request a home testing kit. A limited number of the home testing kits are made available each morning but the demand for these are high. So if you are requesting a home testing kit, we would suggest that you need to go online early in the morning for the best chance to secure one.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested</p>