

24th February 2022 DfE Guidance COVID Update

This is a temporary appendix from 24th February 2022. This appendix is our rationale for retaining our current risk assessment measures whilst we seek further guidance from PHE and DfE.

You must comply with health and safety law and put in place proportionate control measures. You must regularly review and update your risk assessments, treating them as ‘living documents’ as the circumstances at your school or college and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned. For more information on what is required of educational leaders in relation to health and safety risk assessments and managing risk, see Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-advice-for-schools>

If there are unvaccinated clinically vulnerable pupils and students within your setting you may need to put temporary additional protective measures in place in exceptional circumstances. These could include wearing face coverings (unless exempt), limiting contact and mixing with those identified as clinically vulnerable, and increasing hygiene and cleaning routines. Any decision to take additional precautions should be based on your specific circumstances and the needs of the clinically vulnerable children and young people within your setting. You should weigh up what impact additional precautions may have on education and wellbeing.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056217/SEND and specialist settings - additional COVID-19 operational guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056217/SEND_and_specialist_settings_-_additional_COVID-19_operational_guidance.pdf)

What to do if you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

People who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 are at the highest risk of becoming infected because they are most likely to have prolonged close contact. People who stayed overnight in the household of someone with COVID-19 [while they were infectious](#) are also at high risk.

If you live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID-19, you are advised to:

- minimise contact with the person who has COVID-19
- work from home if you are able to do so
- avoid contact with anyone you know who is at [higher risk of becoming severely unwell](#) if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a [severely weakened immune system](#)
- limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- wear a well-fitting [face covering](#) made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people

- pay close attention to the [main symptoms of COVID-19](#). If you develop any of these symptoms, [order a PCR test](#). You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for your test result

Follow this advice for 10 days after the day the person you live or stayed with symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms).

Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.

If you are a contact of someone with COVID-19 but do not live with them or did not stay in their household overnight, you are at lower risk of becoming infected. Carefully follow the guidance on [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

Children and young people at high risk

Some children and young people aged 5 to 17 are considered at high risk from COVID-19 if either:

- they live with someone who has a weakened immune system (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- they have a condition that means they're at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19

Conditions that mean they may be at high risk include:

- a severe problem with the brain or nerves, such as cerebral palsy
- Down's syndrome
- severe or multiple learning disabilities (or they're on the learning disability register)
- a condition that means they're more likely to get infections (such as some genetic conditions or types of cancer)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/who-is-at-high-risk-from-coronavirus/>

Advice if you're at high risk

People at high risk from COVID-19 are advised to follow the same guidance as everyone else.

You are no longer advised to stay at home (shield). But there are still things you can do to help keep yourself safe.

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you can take the

decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

Staff and pupils in specialist SEND settings, Alternative Provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools are advised to continue regular twice weekly testing. For further information, see Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056991/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf

Both of the above paragraphs are from this guidance Feb 22

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)

Summary This guidance explains the actions school leaders should take to manage coronavirus (COVID-19) in their school. This includes public health advice, endorsed by the United

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk

Vaccination

We recommend **all school staff** and **eligible pupils** take up the offer of a vaccine. You can find out more about the in-school vaccination programme in COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people guidance for schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools>