

Back to School



Toolkit for schools, colleges and early years settings.

All education and childcare settings should already have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) describing what they would do if children, pupils, students or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how they would operate if they were advised to reintroduce any measures described in this document to help break chains of transmission.

For more:

[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)



Contact us

Email: phdesk@cornwall.gov.uk

Call **01872 323583**

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY

Email: equality@cornwall.gov.uk Telephone: **0300 1234 100**



<p>Core Principles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise the education of children and young people in setting/school/college and minimise disruption in a way that best manages Covid. • Managing transmission should be weighed against educational drawbacks. • Measures should affect the minimum number for the shortest time. • Attendance restrictions are a last resort. 	
<p>The Basic Measures</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students in secondary schools and colleges should be tested twice on site at an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) upon their return in the autumn term. The tests should be 3-5 days apart. 2. Thereafter, staff and students in secondary schools and colleges, and staff in primary schools, should test themselves using LFD twice a week at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. All early years and wraparound childcare staff should also continue to test twice weekly as they have done throughout the summer. Twice weekly testing for staff and students in HE settings will also continue until the end of September. 3. Continue good hygiene measures for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated. 4. Continue strong messaging about signs and symptoms, isolation advice and testing. 5. Encourage vaccination uptake for eligible staff and students <p>If eligible for the vaccine you can book your vaccine through the NHS portal: Book or manage your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</p> <p>If you have any concerns about the vaccine FAQs are available on NHS Kernow website: COVID-19 vaccine - Frequently asked questions - NHS Kernow CCG - NHS Kernow CCG</p>	
<p>Who to isolate</p>	<p>Possible case: new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).</p> <p>Confirmed case: LFD or PCR COVID-19 positive person with or without symptoms.</p> <p>Partially or unvaccinated contacts (of possible and confirmed cases) over 18 years and 6 months of age (unless</p>	<p>Isolate and send home if still at your setting.</p> <p>10 days isolation from onset of symptoms or in the case of a contact from last contact with a case.</p>

	medically exempt from vaccination).	
Who not to isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully vaccinated adults: those who have received their final dose of an MHRA approved vaccine in the UK vaccination programme, at least 14 days prior to contact with a positive case. Children and young people; those under the age of 18 years and 6 months. Clinical trial participants: those who have taken part in – or are currently taking part in – an MHRA approved COVID 19 vaccine trial. Medical exemptions: those who can evidence that they cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. <p>Siblings/household contacts aged under 18 and six months can continue to attend the setting but should avoid close contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable.</p>	
Contact tracing	<p>NHS Test and Trace will interview cases and will contact individuals to let them know that they have been identified as a contact and check whether they are legally required to self-isolate. If they are not legally required to self-isolate, they will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated contacts and under 18s are not required to self-isolate while waiting for the result of their PCR.</p> <p>“Children aged 4 and under will only require a PCR test if they are symptomatic or if a member of their household is a case of COVID”</p> <p>Individuals should not arrange to have a PCR test if they have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19, as it is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.</p>	
Cases in Staff	Where the case is a member of staff , it will be more appropriate to ask which people they have had definite contact with according to the standard contact tracing definitions being used (see below):	<p>The setting should continue to support the identification of other staff close contacts and report these to the NHS Test and Trace self-isolation hub on: 0203 7436715.</p> <p>NHS Test and Trace will follow-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ being coughed on ▪ having a face-to-face conversation within one metre, or ▪ contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact • a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact or added up together over one day). • a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. <p>Where an interaction between 2 people has taken place through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen, this would not be considered sufficient contact, provided that there has been no other contact such as any of those indicated above.</p>	<p>up directly with contacts to provide testing and isolation advice.</p> <p>You will need to have the 8-digit CTAS number sent to your member of staff</p> <p>NB: Fully vaccinated staff will usually only be asked to arrange a PCR test and not isolate. Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated staff will usually be asked to isolate and have a PCR test.</p>
<p>Cluster and outbreak definitions</p>	<p>‘Cluster’ definition: Two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated within a specific setting with onset dates (or test dates if asymptomatic) within 14 days, with no link within the setting or have an identified source of infection outside of the setting.</p> <p>‘Outbreak’ definition: Two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated within a specific setting with onset dates within 14 days and identified direct exposure between at least two of the confirmed cases in that setting (e.g. within 2</p>	

	<p>metres for >15 minutes) during the infectious period of the putative index case.</p> <p>*Threshold for seeking additional support via the DfE helpline or your local process when an outbreak within a setting is identified is outlined below.</p>	
<p>When to take extra action</p>	<p>Seek Public Health Advice if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; • 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period. • There are any admissions to hospital for COVID-19 • You are having problems implementing the control measures. • You have applied the control measures and are still seeing a significant rise in cases. <p>For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period. 	
<p>Who should I inform</p>	<p>Inform the DfE helpline if you need advice or have an outbreak.</p> <p>Inform the local Public Health Team using the attached form.</p> <p>Inform the Public Health England Health Protection Team if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are boarding/residential or SEND school. • You have a high rate of severe illness/ complex cases. • The case(s) are linked to a variant of concern. • You have had more than 5 cases in the past 2 weeks, or more than three class bubbles are affected • You've taken all the action 	<p>DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1)</p> <p>phnotifications@cornwall.gov.uk TEL: 01872 323583</p> <p>0300 303 8162</p>

	<p>outlined but are still seeing more cases in the setting.</p> <p>Parents Provide a warn-and-inform letter to parents in affected groups (DfE helpline, your local authority or the HPT can help you identify the most appropriate group for this to go to).</p>	
<p>What additional actions might we consider with an outbreak</p>	<p>In discussion with the local PH team/Public Health England, education and early years settings should review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place.</p> <p>Settings should also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes. • Enhanced (advised by 'PH Experts): communications, temporary use of face coverings, restricted visits to and out of the setting, standing up of setting-based testing. • One-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment. • Restrictions to attendance as a last resort where other measures have not broken chains of transmission. 	
<p>Notes on the NHS Covid App</p>	<p>Update to self-isolation advice and the NHS COVID-19 app</p> <p>From Monday 16 August, people who have been fully vaccinated (defined as two weeks after their final dose) within the UK, or aged under 18 years are no longer being asked to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Individuals will instead be advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible.</p> <p>The NHS COVID-19 app will be updated to reflect this change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The app will now ask you to confirm your age and vaccination status in order to update the advice provided by the app. • The majority of people will not be advised to self-isolate. • If you are advised to self-isolate, the self-isolation countdown timer can help you keep track of your isolation days. 	

	<p>To prevent a pingdemic in your workplace please manage your 'contact tracing' if you leave your phone in a locker during the day</p> <p>Go to: <i>Manage contact tracing/contact tracing OFF</i></p> <p><i>Remember to switch it back on when you reconnect with your phone</i></p>
<p>Frequently Asked Questions</p>	<p>primary and early years, secondary schools, further education and higher education</p>
<p>Additional guidance</p>	<p>The following guidance has been updated to reflect the change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic • Higher education COVID-19 operational guidance • Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak • Schools COVID-19 operational guidance • Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19) • Responsibility for exams • COVID-19: assessment processes for selective school admissions • Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak • Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak • Dedicated transport to schools and colleges COVID-19 operational guidance • What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 • COVID-19: guidance for children's social care services