

COVID-19 Key Guidance for Education Settings: April 2022

Local guidance is presented in *italics*. National guidance can be found here:

- [People with symptoms of a Respiratory Infection](#)
- [Health Protection in Schools and Childcare settings](#)
- [Emergency Planning and Response for Education and Childcare](#)

Note: all settings should have an emergency plan in place which includes the setting's response to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Advice and support for COVID-19 queries or concerns

- Education, Early Years and Public Health colleagues will continue their commitment to provide advice and support, prioritising those settings with a significantly high number of cases.
- education-corona@warwickshire.gov.uk (9am -4pm Monday – Friday during term time – other hours apply during school holidays)
- dphadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk (evenings)
- earlyyearsadvisors@warwickshire.gov.uk (to report full or partial closures of the setting)

Urgent health protection issues (weekends only)

For urgent health protection issues please contact **UKHSA on 01384 679031** and ask for the person on-call for Coventry and Warwickshire.

Respiratory Symptoms including COVID-19

- Continuous cough, high temperature, fever of chills, loss/ change in sense of taste or smell, tiredness/lack of energy, shortness of breath, headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual, sore throat, muscle ache, blocked/runny nose, diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick vomiting.

People with respiratory symptoms

- Adults and children who have respiratory symptoms **AND** who are unwell/have a high temperature should stay at home, avoid contact with others, and only return to the setting when well enough and they do not have a high temperature.

Positive LFT results:

- **Adults** should self-isolate for 5 clear days (minimum) after the day of test – which is day 0. Can then return to normal activities on Day 6 if well enough and don't have a high temperature.
- **Children** should self-isolate for 3 clear days (minimum) after the day of test – which is day 0. Can return to normal activities if well enough and don't have a high temperature.
- Although many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days, some people may be infectious to other people for up to 10 days from the

start of their infection. Avoid meeting people at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19 for 10 days after the day of the test.

Close contacts

- Where settings have high numbers of staff/children unwell with respiratory symptoms, but are not clear if it is or isn't COVID-19, please keep parents informed and ask them to be vigilant for symptoms.
- If LFT result of any of the symptomatic individuals is positive and you have rising numbers of suspected cases ***it is recommended that you notify close contacts of cases. Letter templates are available [here](#)***

Vulnerable individuals

- Please ensure you are up to date with respect to risk assessments for individuals who are at higher risk of more serious complications from COVID-19, particularly if unvaccinated/partially vaccinated:
 - [NHS UK - People at higher risk](#)
 - [GOV.UK - Guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk](#)
- Please also ensure you are aware of the details in the national [Emergency Planning guidance regarding vulnerable children from a safeguarding perspective](#)

Regular LFT testing

- Staff and pupils in mainstream settings are no longer expected to do regular LFTs.

Attendance restriction

- This may be advised by Public Health in extreme cases of operational disruption to staffing or where other recommended measures have not mitigated against risks to face-to-face education.

Face coverings

- Face coverings may be temporarily recommended in communal areas or rooms as part of outbreak management measures.
- General wearing of face coverings in school/early years settings is not recommended.

Reducing mixing

- During times of high incidence of infection, consider ways in which children can be "zoned", or how mixing (including staff) might be reduced in ways that will fit with how you are operating your setting: e.g. at lunch and break times, start and finish times. Think particularly about places people congregate, e.g. foyers, locker areas, staff rooms/offices/meeting rooms, changing rooms etc.
- All sports fixtures, planned trips, or educational visits should be risk assessed.

Ventilation

- Ensure good ventilation in all communal and classroom areas.
- Please contact dphadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk if you need further advice regarding ventilation or your ventilation units.
- The [air cleaning marketplace remains open](#), enabling you to purchase units at a suitable specification and competitive price

Visitors

- Be mindful about having visitors in the setting, and if in an outbreak visitors should wear a face covering and leave their contact details so they can be traced as close contacts if necessary.

Vaccination

- Encourage vaccine take up among staff/parents and eligible children.
- Drop-in clinics across Coventry and Warwickshire and all vaccinations sites that you can book into in the links below:
 - [Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care Partnership - Drop-in vaccination clinics across Coventry and Warwickshire](#)
 - [Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care Partnership - Vaccination sites](#)

Hand hygiene and cleaning

- Remind children and staff to wash their hands regularly and use sanitiser where possible
- Continue with regular cleaning routine and very regular cleaning down touchpoints and areas of heavy traffic.