

Action to take in managing a single suspected case of COVID-19 in a child

A suspected case is anyone who experiences a new, continuous cough, loss of taste and smell OR a high temperature.

However, if a child begins to feel non-specifically unwell, consider whether they should be sent home or not. This document outlines general advice.

“**Educational setting**” refers to schools, early years settings and childcare providers. Further detailed guidance for schools, early years and childcare settings is available from [the guidance for schools section of the gov.uk coronavirus website area](#).

The actions noted in the checklist below should be taken alongside the actions outlined within your own COVID-19 risk assessments.

Circumstance

What to do when a child in an educational setting reports that they are unable to come in due to COVID-19

Action Completed

- Any child with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and not attend the educational setting for seven days from the first day they developed symptoms.
- Their parent/carer should be encouraged to share information promptly about the child’s recent contacts and arrange a test for them via [nhs.uk/coronavirus](#) or by calling 119
- Key workers should book a test for children with symptoms in their household via [gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers](#)
- Testing should be undertaken within five days of becoming symptomatic, ideally within three days
- Children with a symptomatic household member should isolate for 14 days. If the person with symptoms tests negative, check at [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/](#) if the child can stop isolating.

What to tell contacts of a child who reports that they are unable to come in due to COVID-19

Action Completed

While the test result of the suspected case is awaited, close contacts:

- Should not self-isolate
- Must avoid individuals who are at high-risk of COVID-19
- Must take extra care in practising social distancing and good hygiene and in watching out for symptoms.
- Can be better prepared if the test is positive and the NHS Test and Trace Services notifies them (the contact) that they need to self-isolate

If the suspected case test is positive:

- Contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. They should arrange a test if they develop symptoms. Even if they have a negative test, they need to complete 14 days self-isolation because of the contact with a confirmed case.

What to do if a child becomes unwell on site with COVID-19 symptoms	Action Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child develops COVID-19 symptoms at the educational setting, they should go home as soon as possible. • If the child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. A window should be opened for ventilation. • If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area that is at least two metres away from other people. • Provide adult supervision as required for the child waiting for collection. If possible, the adult should supervise from a two metre distance (so then does not need to wear PPE). • If the supervising adult needs to be within two metres of the child with symptoms, the adult should wear a fluid-resistant surgical facemask. • If the supervising adult needs to be in direct contact with the child with symptoms, the adult should wear disposable gloves, disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical facemask. • If there is a risk of splashing to the eyes (eg from coughing, spitting or vomiting), the supervising adult should also wear eye protection • If the child needs 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. • Advise the parent/carer not to visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. They should contact NHS 111 if the child is unwell, or 999 in an emergency. • Advise them to adhere to the stay at home guidance available at gov.uk • Advise the parent/carer to arrange COVID-19 testing by contacting via nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling 119. • Identify the key contacts who may have been with the child. 	
If a member of staff has helped a child who is unwell	Action Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds after any contact. • They do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or the individual subsequently tests positive. 	
What to do on site after a child has symptoms	Action completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The affected area/rooms should be cleaned using standard cleaning products after someone with symptoms has left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to others. See COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance for more details 	

What to do if there is more than one child/ member of staff with COVID symptoms within the same 14 day period	Action completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to your outbreak prevention plan for schools• If you don't have this to hand, you can download it from the councils' test and trace webpage	