

 UK Health Security Agency	<p style="text-align: center;">Prevention and control of respiratory infections (including COVID-19)</p> <p>This action card aims to explain the key actions for managing acute respiratory infections - ARI- (including COVID-19 and flu) in an education or childcare setting. It is in line with the guidance Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
Vaccination	Vaccination remains an effective way of protecting people against COVID-19 and Flu
Transmission Route:	<p>Person to person spread through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces.</p> <p>During an outbreak scenario or where case numbers are rising, it is important that people with symptoms are appropriately excluded from school. You should also promote social distancing and reduce crowding where possible e.g., during assembly, breaks, staff meetings etc. In addition, please also risk assess residential education visits, open days, transition/taster days, parental attendance, live performances for affected classes/year groups and postpone or re-format (as appropriate).</p>
Exclusion:	<p>Health Protection in children and young people settings, including education is a useful resource and contains a dedicated webpage on exclusion period for different infections including Influenza, COVID and other acute respiratory infections</p> <p>❖ <i>In general, children and young people who are unwell with respiratory symptoms and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. If they have not tested positive for COVID or flu, they can go back to an education or childcare setting when they are fully recovered and no longer have a high temperature.</i></p> <p>It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. However, if a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days. • Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal as long as they do not have any symptoms. • Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.
Closures:	It is not necessary to close the school, unless there are operational reasons such as significant staff absence, which would be a decision for the school in conjunction with the relevant Local educational authority.
Testing	COVID testing is no longer indicated in almost all education settings.
Recommended actions for limiting transmission of acute respiratory infections – ARI - (including COVID-19)	
Hand and respiratory hygiene:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be supervised and/or encouraged to wash their hand regularly • Hand washing with liquid soap and warm water preferred over alcohol gel • Paper towels should be used for drying hands and a wastepaper bin provided for disposal. • Encourage good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues) • e-Bug England Home has arrange of educational resources for ages 3-16 to learn about microbes, infection prevention and control, antibiotics and vaccination.
Cleaning and disinfection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular cleaning using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach is an important part of reducing transmission • Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches and work surfaces should be wiped down twice a day and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. • Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.

Ventilation and use of outdoor space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider use of outdoor spaces if possible • Ensure occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in. Further information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ventilating classrooms to reduce the spread of Covid 19 doesn't mean pupils need to be cold – here's why - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk) ○ COVID-19: ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider communications to raise awareness among parents and guardians of the outbreak and reinforce key messages, including the use of hand and respiratory hygiene measures
<p>When to contact your local Health Protection Team, UKHSA To find your local health protection team click here</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection • Evidence of severe disease due to respiratory infection, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital <p><i>In addition to the above, SEND schools should also contact us for: -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An acute respiratory infection outbreak in a SEND school with medically vulnerable/immunocompromised children • A SEND school with difficulties in applying the outbreak control measures due to residential setting or increasing complexity e.g., hospital admissions

N.B: Operational pressures: During an outbreak scenario, if you have issues with staff absence leading to operational pressures, then **please inform your Local Authority public health and education teams. Please ensure safeguarding risk assessments are undertaken for vulnerable children who are required to isolate.**

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USEFUL LINKS FOR CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION SETTINGS

1. Guidance: [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools and parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
2. Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>
3. People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19>
4. Living with COVID: the end of routine testing in schools, colleges and childcare settings; <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/30/living-with-covid-the-end-of-routine-testing-in-schools-colleges-and-childcare-settings/>
5. Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>
6. Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities/exclusion table <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>
7. Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus>
8. Department for education: [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings](#)