



Guidance for managing symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 in childcare & education settings in Suffolk in the era of “Living with COVID-19”

1st April 2022

New guidance was released by the Government on 1st April 2022:

[People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

The direction of travel is to manage COVID-19 like any other infectious disease going forward.

Settings should follow the relevant national guidance for their setting. We have provided a summary of the guidance in table 1. Childcare & educational setting leaders should consult the full updated national guidance for their setting and keep up to date with any changes as and when the guidance is updated.

[Changes to COVID-19 testing in England from 1 April - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-covid-19-testing-in-england-from-1-april)

[People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

[Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19)

The government has produced new [guidance](#) on how schools can maintain their capability to provide remote education when it is not possible for some, or all of their pupils to attend in person.

Table 1: Summary of key COVID-19 guidance for childcare and education settings from 1 April 2022

Asymptomatic Testing	From 1 st April 2022 all asymptomatic testing has been suspended for educational settings and the general public. It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid-19 unless directed to by a health professional.
Symptomatic individuals	Adults and children with severe symptoms should stay at home and when they feel well enough return to education. Adults and children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.



	<p>Adults and children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can, they can resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.</p>
<p>Individuals who test positive for Covid 19</p>	<p>Although legal requirement to isolate has ended, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days for adults and 3 full days for children, if they can after they took the test. After 5 or 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature they can return to education.</p> <p>Although there is no legal requirement for staff to inform their employer if they test positive, all staff should follow the sickness and absence policy of their setting.</p>
<p>Close contacts</p>	<p>Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and routine contact tracing has ended - staff, children and young people who are contacts should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home. The legal requirement has been removed for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.</p>
<p>Outbreak management</p>	<p>All settings should continue baseline infection prevention and control measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, and keep occupied spaces well ventilated • continue to encourage coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff. <p>When to seek public health advice for additional control measures</p> <p>Settings should contact CYPC19@Suffolk.gov.uk when in their expert view, they face <u>severe</u> operational disruption to face-to-face education.</p> <p>We expect this to be an exceptional occurrence as evidence shows that the impact of COVID-19 is under control.</p> <p>Residential SEND settings may be advised by their local health protection team to re-introduce some time-limited asymptomatic testing. This would be an exceptional measure, for targeted groups of staff and pupils or students (secondary age or above) in the event of a possible COVID-19 outbreak</p>



	<p>CYP colleagues will liaise with local public health team as needed to consider appropriate additional public health control measures. Public Health Suffolk will seek expert guidance from UKSHA colleagues as appropriate.</p> <p>Any additional measures will be advised to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.</p>
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