



Summary of Covid Guidance

New guidance about the management of Covid in schools has been released.

These are the main points:

- Schools must have an updated risk assessment and Outbreak Management Plan.
- It is no longer necessary to keep in strict bubbles. For example, assemblies can take place and bubbles can be mixed at lunchtime.
- Bubbles could be re-introduced as part of the Outbreak Management plan.
- Close contacts will be identified by Track and Trace.
- Individuals are not required to isolate if they live in the same house as a positive case, or are a close contact, if:
 - They are fully vaccinated
 - Under 18 years and 6 months
 - They can't be vaccinated for medical reasons
- Face coverings are no longer advised but may be introduced if there is a significant number of cases.
- Additional measures should only be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of people as possible and for the shortest amount of time possible.
- Control measures should continue:
 - Good hygiene for everyone
 - Continue with existing routines of hand washing or sanitising
 - Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
 - PPE to be used when dealing with symptomatic people
 - Maintain cleaning regimes
 - Cleaning as now – 2x per day with a focus on frequently touched surfaces
 - Ventilation
 - Areas need to be well ventilated. Poorly ventilated spaces must be identified in the risk assessment and steps taken to improve them.
 - Internal doors to be open where appropriate and also external doors. Windows should be open.
 - Follow advice on testing, isolation and case management
 - Staff and pupils must not come to school if they have symptoms, a positive test or have been told to isolate.
 - Staff and pupils who display symptoms (the original list) in school must be sent home and take a PCR test.
 - Pupils awaiting collection must follow the existing procedures in school.
- Staff are advised to continue with LFTs twice a week as before.
- Remote Education will continue, and we need to have provision in place for this.
- The guidance document gives the following information about when to take action:
 - For most settings it will make sense to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate transmission is happening in the setting. The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned.
 - For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.
- Close Mixing is defined thus:
 - For early years, this could include:
 - a childminder minding children, including their own
 - childminders working together on the same site
 - a nursery class
 - a friendship group who often play together
 - staff and children taking part in the same activity session together
 - For schools, this could include:
 - a form group or subject class
 - a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
 - a sports team
 - a group in an after-school activity