



What are the latest rules around COVID-19 in schools, colleges, nurseries and other education settings?

Since March 2022 when the final Covid restrictions were lifted the UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) has advised that COVID-19 should be managed like other respiratory infections, such as flu.

COVID-19 presents a low risk to children and young people. This, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, means there are no longer specific rules relating to COVID-19 in schools, colleges, childcare and other education settings.

Here's what you need to know.

What happens if a staff member or my child tests positive for COVID-19?

For children and young people aged 18 and under who test positive for COVID-19, the advice is to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **three days**. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **five days**, which is when they are most infectious. The UKHSA has also published public health guidance on [living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#).

Who can still test?

As individuals are now mixing in an open society, regular testing within a setting is no longer as effective as it once was. Instead, the most effective protection against severe disease from COVID-19 for everyone, including those at higher risk from COVID-19, is to get vaccinated.

People at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 will continue to get free tests to use if they develop symptoms, along with NHS and adult social care staff and those in other high-risk settings. Local Health Protection Teams (HPT) may implement outbreak testing for specific settings at their discretion.

Public health guidance on the actions [people with symptoms of a respiratory infection](#) should take to help reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and passing it on to others is available.

Vaccines remain our best weapon against this virus. By getting vaccinated, children, young people and staff can increase their protection against COVID-19. Resources, including immunisation guidance are available for parents and young people, which can be found [here](#).

What measures should schools be taking to stop the spread?

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As well as following the UKHSA guidance signposted, all settings should have in place baseline infection prevention and control measures that will help to manage the spread of infection:

- Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as regular hand washing and cleaning.
- Ensuring occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in.
- Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the [offer of national vaccination programmes including COVID-19 and flu](#)

Should schools provide remote education for pupils who have COVID-19?

Schools should consider remote learning for pupils that do test positive for COVID-19 but who feel well enough to learn but are following advice to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days.