# PHE South East Health Protection Team:

**School Closure**

If you think you may need to close the school contact PHE SE HPT on 03442253861 first to discuss the public health perspective.

Cases & contacts can return once the isolation period is completed.

**Call the HPT again if:**

* The situation worsens
* Any hospitalisations or complex cases
  + Any media interest
* Any other concerns you need support with

Managing Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Childcare and Educational Settings

## Version 4.0 Date 21/9/2020

Prevent the spread of infection by maintaining high standards of hygiene, including hand washing and regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. This will help prevent COVID-19 spreading in educational settings, as well as other infectious diseases.

If you have any infection control concerns or questions, please call DfE helpline which also remains available for all other queries about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to your education and childcare setting on 0800 046 8687. The line will be open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. GUIDANCE: Visit gov.uk/coronavirus for detailed schools guidance and other guidance

**COVID-19 Case Definition:**

**(as of 18/05/20)**

* A high temperature
* A new, continuous cough
* A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

**Cleaning**

Refer to gov.uk *(Cleaning in non- healthcare settings outside the home)* for detailed guidance. Routine enhanced cleaning should already be in place.

The minimum PPE for cleaning an area after suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 has left the setting possible is disposable gloves and an apron. (N.b. if risk assessment indicates a higher level of virus may be present, e.g. where someone unwell has spent the night such as a boarding school dormitory, then additional PPE may be necessary – speak to your HPT for advice).

Public areas (e.g. corridors) - clean as normal. All frequently touched surfaces (door handles, taps, table tops, keyboards etc.) should also be cleaned and disinfected.

Use disposable cloths/paper roll, disposable mop heads to clean hard surfaces. Use a combined detergent and disinfectant or a two-stage cleaning process of detergent (household type cleaner) followed by a hypochlorite solution (1000ppm)

e.g. diluted Milton (check chemicals in use are effective against enveloped viruses).

**Waste**

Any COVID-19 related waste should be double-bagged and stored for 72 hours before usual disposal.

2+ confirmed cases in the same group/class

Ensure child/staff member isolates at home for **10 days** from when symptoms started.

The rest of the household (including siblings in the same setting but a different unaffected area) need to isolate for **14 days**.

Confirmed case in child or staff member

Ensure child/staff member isolates at home for **10 days** from when symptoms started.

The rest of the household (including siblings in the same setting but a different unaffected area) need to isolate for **14 days**. 

Advise that anyone with symptoms get tested. Online via nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

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Wash your hands

Enhanced Cleaning

Minimise Mixing

Good respiratory hygiene

Appropriate use of face coverings and PPE where necessary

Minimise contact with individuals who are ill

**System**

**of Controls for Prevention**

TESTING: Visit nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

Cases & contacts can return once the isolation period is completed.

If further suspected or confirmed cases occur they need to isolate for **10 days** from when symptoms started.

Clean and disinfect rooms/areas the case was using – ensure appropriate PPE (minimum gloves and apron). Maintain the level of cleaning in these areas – even if not being used due to isolation protocols.

The DfE will undertake an assessment to determine if any contacts in the setting need to self-isolate at home for **14 days**. (contacts’ wider household will NOT need to isolate)

**Call the DfE & contact** [**CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk**](mailto:CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk) **to notify of single case so that we can support risk assessment and follow-up.**

**Call the DfE again if:**

* The situation worsens
* Any hospitalisations or complex cases
* Any other concerns you need support with

The DfE will provide tools to support outbreak communications.

Clean and disinfect rooms/areas the case was using – ensure appropriate PPE (minimum gloves and apron). Maintain the level of cleaning in these areas – even if not being used due to isolation protocols.

The DfE will undertake an assessment to determine if any contacts in the setting need to self-isolate at home for **14 days**. (contacts’ wider household will NOT need to isolate)

**Call the DfE & contact** [**CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk**](mailto:CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk) **to notify of single case so that we can support risk assessment and follow-up.**

Ensure child/staff member isolates at home for **10 days** from when symptoms started. The rest of the household need to isolate for **14 days. Contact** [**CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk**](mailto:CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk)

Negative for COVID-19:

Case can return once well. Household contacts can stop self-isolating and carry on as normal.

Positive for COVID-19: FOLLOW THE CONFIRMED CASE PROCESS

IF the CHILD is in the setting

– Isolate away from others until they can be picked up.

(Refer to PPE guidance if personal care is required

within 2m)

If a staff member, they should avoid contact and go home immediately.

Advise that the child/staff member get tested. Online via nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

Clean and disinfect rooms the suspected case was using – ensure appropriate PPE.

You do not need to send other children/staff home at this point. Await testing results for the suspected case. If you are considering any other public health actions or have concerns about the risk assessment (e.g. high rate of absence suspected to by COVID-19 related), please call the HPT.

**Suspected case in child or staff member**