

Salford City Council Guidance for when a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with respiratory infections including COVID-19 in an education/childcare setting

Contents

Section 1: Public Health and Government Guidance	2
Section 2: Living safely with respiratory infection including COVID 19.....	2
Section 3: Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), flu and common respiratory infections	3
Section 4: People with respiratory infections.....	4
Section 5: Positive COVID-19 test result.....	4
Section 7: Staff or pupils that are pregnant	5
Section 9: Obtaining PPE	5
Section 10: Staff absence recording	5
Section 11: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)	5

Section 1: Public Health and Government Guidance

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

[*Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care setting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Every emergency is different but, in all cases, educational and wellbeing impacts should be considered when taking any emergency and risk management actions. You should do your best to minimise the amount and length of any disruption to education or childcare, including maximising the number of children, pupils and students who are in face-to-face provision. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children remains of paramount importance. You must continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to you and your setting.

All education, childcare, and children's social care settings should have emergency plans in place detailing what you would do and how you would respond if you needed to take any temporary actions in the event of an emergency.

If at any point your school is concerned that there is an outbreak in your school, as with any other infectious diseases, our Public Health colleagues are available to support. You can contact Public Health Salford by calling 0800 952 1000.

Section 2: Living safely with respiratory infection including COVID 19

As we learn to live safely with COVID-19, there are actions we can all take to help reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and passing it on to others. These actions will also help to reduce the spread of other respiratory infections. COVID-19 and other respiratory infections such as flu can spread easily and cause serious illness in some people.

The table below provides guidance on those measures considered by public health and education colleagues to have the maximum effect on reducing the spread of the virus with minimum impact on the quality of education. Additional measure may be re-introduced in the event of an exceptional break of Covid-19 or another respiratory infection, on advice from Salford's Public Health Team or the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Measures to reduce the spread of infection in educational settings	
1	DO Vaccination – for all those eligible. Settings should continue to encourage coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination as well as the seasonal flu vaccine uptake for eligible students and staff.
2	DO Regularly review and update your risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents'- as the circumstances in your school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.
3	DO Retain a robust and up to date emergency planning and response document
6	DO Support those who are unwell (with respiratory symptoms) to avoid contact with other people until they no longer feel unwell
7	DO Respiratory hygiene – for example 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' continues to be very important
8	DO Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. Use CO2 monitors to identify poorly ventilated spaces.

9	DO Personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used in an appropriate and safe manner when managing an unwell person within the setting.
10	DO Hand hygiene – Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that students clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
11	DO Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. You may find it beneficial to temporarily increase cleaning in parts of the school that has increased cases, this is of particular benefit in year groups where hand hygiene may not be very good.

Section 3: Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), flu and common respiratory infections

There are many illnesses that can give rise to concern. Please contact your GP or NHS 111 if you are worried; or call 999 if seriously unwell.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

Schools should continue to ask children who are unwell with some other common childhood infectious diseases to remain at home until they are 48 hours symptom free. These include but are not limited to, diarrhoea, vomiting, flu like symptoms and chicken pox. Go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities

Since most restrictions were lifted in April 2022, we have seen a rise in many common childhood illnesses with some of these exceeding pre-pandemic rates, we are also anticipating high rates of flu this year, following low rates for the last 2 years, this is based on the 2022 flu season in the southern hemisphere. Please make sure to keep an eye out for the symptoms of other infectious diseases.

Chicken pox- small spots on the body along with a fever, loss of appetite, and generally feeling unwell. If your child had these symptoms, they should stay off school for 5 days after the spots appeared. They should drink plenty of fluids and can take paracetamol for any pain.

Scarlet fever- flu-like symptoms, sore throat, a large lump on the side of the neck, followed by a rash 12-48 hours later. If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, please get in touch with your GP.

Hand foot and mouth disease- sore throat, fever, loss of appetite, mouth ulcer. If your child has these symptoms, get in touch with your local pharmacist who should be able to help.

Flu- Flu symptoms come on very quickly and can include: a sudden high temperature, an aching body, feeling tired or exhausted, a dry cough, a sore throat, a headache, difficulty sleeping, loss of appetite, diarrhea or tummy pain, feeling sick and being sick. The

symptoms are similar for children, but they can also get pain in their ear and appear less active.

If you are unsure, or have any questions, please call the Spirit of Salford number on 0800 952 1000.

Section 4: People with respiratory infections

1. Pupils, staff or any member of the school community should not attend school if they are unwell with respiratory infection symptoms and have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to attend. Parents should not send their child to school/setting if they are unwell with respiratory infection symptoms. Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. If a parent or carer insists on a symptomatic pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.
2. Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.
3. If someone becomes unwell with symptoms in school, they should be sent home. The school or setting should undertake any necessary cleaning after someone has been unwell, with symptoms, on the premises. The appropriate PPE should be worn for cleaning or dealing with an unwell person (masks which are FFPIIR compliant and gloves and goggles if needed).

Please note: We advise fully vaccinated clinically vulnerable staff should not undertake first aid for persons unwell with symptoms that could be COVID-19 related. They may continue to undertake first aid for incidental cases, e.g. cut finger, bumps and bruises etc.

4. It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

Section 5: Positive COVID-19 test result

Please note: Routine testing is no longer recommended, nor is it a requirement for people with respiratory infection symptoms.

Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 1 April. There is no legal requirement to isolate but anyone with symptoms should try and stay at home and away from others to avoid passing on the virus.

Adults

Many people with COVID-19 will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test.

For those who can't stay at home or avoid complete contact, reduce contact with others where you can and avoid contact with anyone who is more clinically vulnerable.

Children

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the

infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Advice for household contacts

Staff, Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.

Section 7: Staff or pupils that are pregnant

Guidance for those who are pregnant was changed on **1 April 2022**. For people whose pregnancy is low risk and have had at least 2 doses of the vaccine, they should follow the same guidance as the rest of the general public.

For people who are over 28 weeks pregnant and are unvaccinated, they should seek advice from their GP/hospital consultant/midwife, regarding any additional measures that may be needed.

If staff or pupils are pregnant and develop symptoms of COVID-19, it is important that they contact their GP, midwife or maternity team, or 111. Guidance for pregnancy and COVID-19 can be found on the [NHS website](#). The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) also has a range of [information on COVID-19 in pregnancy and vaccination](#).

Section 9: Obtaining PPE

Schools should order quality standard PPE via their usual supply lines and if they are unable to source stock, they should contact csdbusinesssupport@salford.gov.uk where emergency provision can be supplied

Section 10: Staff absence recording

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 and/or they are unwell with respiratory infection symptoms, then they should be recorded as being off sick and the absence would count towards absence monitoring.

If managers are asking staff to stay at home for 5 days despite them being well, following a positive test, then it's not reasonable to record this as sickness or use the absence towards monitoring. If possible, these employees should be given work they can do from home for this period of time.

Section 11: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

If a member of school staff has contracted an infectious disease and the infection has resulted directly from their work then it is reportable as a notifiable disease under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

NB Academies need to make these referrals via their Academy Trusts not via the LA process.

When deciding if a report is required, the responsible person (usually the manager or Head teacher) must make a judgement, based on the information available, as to whether or not the disease is likely to have been caused from their workplace, and from this decide that there is reasonable evidence that this is the likely cause of the disease.

It's important that records are accurate and up to date for reporting purposes so next steps are outlined below:

When discussing current cases/ outbreaks with public health, if you believe the threshold has been met for a referral, please raise with the public health lead and agree if a referral should be made. If after consultation with a public health lead you believe that the above criteria have been met, then you should complete the online accident and incident form.

The Health Safety Team will then complete the RIDDOR report.
Further advice is available from Health & Safety. <https://myzone.salford.gov.uk/knowledge-zone/how-we-do-things/health-and-safety/browse-by-topic/accidents-and-incidents/>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Health and Safety Team