



COVID-19 Response Policy (Medical)

Date Policy Reviewed:	21 April 2022
Review Frequency:	Every four weeks or more regularly if necessary
Date of Next Review:	21 May 2022
Person(s) Responsible for Review:	SLT (Head)

The following policy is based on Government Guidance from the UK Health Security Agency; 'Health protection in education and childcare settings' published on 1 April 2022.

1. SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 in children and adults can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

2. CHILDREN

Children and young people aged 18 and under can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but it is usually a mild illness and most get better in a few days.

What to do if your child has COVID-19 symptoms

Please keep your child at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school, college or childcare, or do their normal activities

They can come back to school when they feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can come to school.

Encourage your child to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and to wash their hands after using or throwing away tissues.

Most children who are unwell will recover in a few days with rest and plenty of fluids.

If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day

Any child who presents as unwell during the school day will be taken to the School Nurse. The child's temperature will be taken and their symptoms will be assessed. If they have a raised temperature or are too unwell to be in school, the child's parents will be called and asked to come and collect their child. The child should then stay away from school until well enough to return.

Changes to testing for COVID-19 for children

Testing children for COVID-19 is "not recommended" unless they are directed to by a health professional.

3. ADULTS

What to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and either:

- you have a high temperature
- you do not feel well enough to go to work or do your normal activities

Take extra care to avoid close contact with anyone who is at higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

Changes to testing for COVID-19 for adults

- Free testing for COVID-19 from the NHS has ended for most people in England.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you are no longer required to do a rapid lateral flow or PCR test.
- If you still want to get tested and you're not eligible for a free NHS test, you must pay for a COVID-19 test yourself.
- You can buy a COVID-19 test from some pharmacies and retailers, in person or online.

If you are worried about your symptoms, or are not sure what to do, contact NHS 111 either online or by phone.

4. DfE INCIDENT SUPPORT HELPLINE

The school will contact the DfE Incident Support Helpline (0800 046 8687, Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm) when necessary. This service is available to support the education sector with any questions about COVID-19 and other national incidents and emergencies which impact on education, childcare and children's social care.

5. GENERAL MEDICAL MATTERS

- If a child arrives at school on any given day and the school has cause to be concerned about their health, they should not be permitted entry to the site without a second opinion from the School Nurse or First Aider on duty.
- The school will adhere to its strict policy on a 48 hour exclusion in the event of vomiting and diarrhoea.
- Hand hygiene - frequent and thorough handwashing is regularly enforced.
- Hand-sanitising gel is available in all areas.
- Normal PPE for personal hygiene amongst the Early Years Children is provided and used.
- Respiratory hygiene - the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is encouraged.
- Posters are in place around the school, reinforcing good practice.
- Appropriate cleaning regimes are in place in all areas of the school.
- Areas are appropriately ventilated.