What to do if a child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

If anyone in your setting develops a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and be advised to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. This sets out that they must:

- self-isolate for at least 10 days
- arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

Action list

1. In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital except in an emergency.

2. Call parents/legal guardian to collect child and take them home. Advise them that all household members will need to isolate and refer them to the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

3. While the child is awaiting collection, move them to an isolated room and open a window for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

4. Since it's unlikely that staff caring for a young child while they are awaiting collection will be able to maintain a 2 metre distance, they should wear suitable PPE[1]:

Situation	PPE
2m distance cannot be maintained	A face mask should be worn
Contact is necessary	Gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn
Risk of fluids entering the eye (e.g. from coughing, spitting or vomiting)	Eye protection should also be worn

---

[1] More information on PPE use can be found in the Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance.

5. If the child needs to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

6. Staff/other children who have had contact with the symptomatic child must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds.

7. When parents/legal guardian pick up the child, advise them to get the child tested and notify you of the results.

8. Once the child has left the premises, thoroughly disinfect/clean all surfaces and touchpoints they came into contact with (including the bathroom if used).

What to do if a child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

1. Notify your local health protection team (HPT) immediately when you become aware that a child or a member of staff who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus. Find contact details for your local [health protection team](#).

2. The HPT will work with you to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify appropriate next steps.

3. With HPT advice, identify close contacts of the symptomatic individual. Contact tracers will inform contacts that they need to self-isolate for 14 days in line with [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](#).

4. Notify Ofsted swiftly through the usual notification channels of any confirmed case of coronavirus (either staff member or child). Also notify Ofsted if the setting is advised to close as a result.

5. If applicable, ensure access to remote provision for children who are isolating so that they can continue to learn remotely.

6. A template letter will be provided to settings, on the advice of the health protection team, to send to parents, carers and staff if needed.

7. Settings must not share the names of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.