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| *Latest Updates*:  Solihull as an [Area of National Intervention](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/birmingham-sandwell-and-solihull-local-restrictions?utm_source=c7b8ddac-614a-45ae-b11b-da06f604752a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate):  Registered childminders and group childcare can continue to provide early education and care for children. For the purposes of work you can continue to have children and parents coming to your home. You should not mix unnecessarily with others; so you should not visit another childminders home for a visit. Children of parents who are separated can continue to move between households. Friends or family who you do not live with should not visit your home to help with childcare unless they are part of your support bubble.  As the number of suspected and confirmed cases increase across Solihull we know that providers may be effected by the need for self-isolation and proximity isolation. This is especially true for childminders whose own children are asked to isolate by their school/ public health as there is a confirmed case in their school bubble. They should not then be in contact with anyone other than their household contacts whilst they isolate.  National Guidance  [2.15 Can I gather in a group of more than 6 for childcare?](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do)  There is an *exemption* to the legal gatherings limit which comes into force on 14 September for the purposes of education, *training, registered childcare*, or providers offering before or after-school clubs for children. Youth groups, wraparound childcare, including settings not formally registered (such as those providing after school clubs, breakfast clubs, sports clubs), and other children’s groups will also be allowed to continue.  [Schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools) should work to resume any breakfast and after-school provision, where possible, from the start of the autumn term. Schools should also work closely with any external wraparound providers which their pupils may use, to ensure as far as possible, children can be kept in a group with other children from the same bubble they are in during the school day.  [*Contain*](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-possible-measures-to-be-taken-before-schools-and-colleges-close) *guidance sets of the 4 levels of lockdown for schools and settings.*  Tier 1 -All nurseries, childminders, schools, colleges and other educational establishments should remain open and continue to allow all their children and young people to attend, on site, with no other restrictions in place.  Tier 2 - Early years settings, primary schools and alternative provision (AP) providers, special schools and other specialist settings will continue to allow all children/pupils to attend on site. Secondary schools move to a rota model, combining on-site provision with remote education.  Tier 3 - Childcare, nurseries, primary schools, AP, special schools and other specialist settings will continue to allow all children/pupils to attend on site. Secondary schools, FE colleges and other educational establishments would allow full-time on-site provision only to vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and selected year groups (to be identified by Department for Education). Other pupils should not attend on site. Remote education to be provided for all other pupils.  Tier 4 - All nurseries, childminders, mainstream schools, colleges and other educational establishments allow full-time attendance on site only to our priority groups: vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other pupils should not attend on site. AP, special schools and other specialist settings will allow for full-time on-site attendance of all pupils. Remote education to be provided for all other pupils.  If [Paediatric First Aid](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures)  certificate requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with coronavirus (COVID-19), or by complying with related government advice, the validity of current certificates can be extended to 25 November 2020 at the latest.  [Ofsted](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsteds-autumn-2020-plans) will continue with the early years registration process, including on-site registration visits and emergency regulatory and enforcement work as concerns are raised. From September 2020 Ofsted will begin carrying out regulatory activity in providers that have been judged inadequate or requires improvement and have associated actions to fulfil. Return to graded inspections is likely to be in January 2021.  [EYFS Disapplication](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications)  The disapplications will end on 25 September 2020. Provisions were made in the regulations to allow for a transitional period of up to 2 months for disapplications around staffing levels to continue in recognition that some providers may need some time to get back to full staffing levels once the disapplications are lifted. Where there are further restrictions or requirements related to coronavirus (COVID-19) due to a local or national lockdown, these may affect a provider’s ability to comply with the EYFS. Therefore we have made new regulations as follows – these will come into force on 26 September 2020 and would only apply where a provider is prevented from complying with the prescribed requirements of the EYFS due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related restrictions or requirements which have been imposed on a geographical area by regulations or a direction. Solihull is currently an area of national intervention.  [Immunisation:](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/) [Parent Leaflet](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/613471/Protecting_your_child_against_flu_leaflet.pdf)  Department for Health and Social Care [announced details of its expanded winter flu programme](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/q3eSC08Vock4WB1iwti-C?domain=gov.uk) to protect vulnerable people and support the NHS. As critical workers staff in early years and childcare settings will want to consider being protected.  [Face coverings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)  The latest evidence and advice is that children aged 12 and over should wear a mask where social distancing cannot be safely managed and there is widespread transmission in the area. The evidence suggests that face coverings can help us protect each other and reduce the spread of the disease from someone who is suffering from coronavirus, but not showing symptoms.  Nationwide, we are not recommending face coverings are necessary in nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges generally. This is because the approaches nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges are putting in place already reduce the health risks.  [Solihull Council website](https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Schools-learning/Coronavirus-Schools) has links to leaflets for parents; they are available in different languages. |
| Q: What information do I need to tell local authority? |
| * Family Information Service submit a return to DfE about settings that are open/ closed and the number of children they are supporting. We ask settings to complete a weekly Survey Monkey return to FIS via this link. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EYCOVID-19> The Department for Education will continue to monitor attendance at early years settings, via local authorities. This is to ensure that we have up-to-date information on available early years and childcare provision during the coronavirus (C19) outbreak, which children are accessing it and to monitor sufficiency in particular areas. DfE will continue to run the data collection over the summer, to ensure that they have information on which children are accessing provision and if there are sufficiency issues in particular areas. It will be reviewed at the end of September.   OFSTED If operating circumstances change (you open or close), notify Ofsted by sending an email to enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk with ‘Change in operating hours’ in the subject field. In the body of the email, please confirm the unique reference number for the setting and the details of the change. You can find your URN on your registration, your inspection report(s), and on your Ofsted reports page. |
| Q: How do I report a coronavirus outbreak in my setting? |
| There is a new online method for reporting outbreaks in nurseries and schools, within the West Midlands to Public Health England. An outbreak is classed as where there are 2 or more people with symptoms within a 14-day period. In these instances please report the outbreak using the following link:  <https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n4KL97m2I> please contact  You will then be given links and information on how to manage the outbreak. PHE office for URGENT advice that cannot be located online. .. 0344 225 3560 Option 0, Option 2.  A template letter will be provided to settings, on the advice of the local health protection team, to send to parents, carers and staff if needed. Settings must not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.    If you have a *case* of Covid-19 please phone 0121 704 6892 or email brief details to [contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk) to notify the Public Health department at Solihull Council.  In addition, any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the setting (either child or staff member), and if the setting has been advised to close as a result, should be swiftly reported to Ofsted through the usual notification channels. |
| Q: What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in my child’s school, college or childcare setting? |
| A: When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.  If a staff member has been isolated from a school/setting following an exposure to a confirmed case of Covid-19, they must stay at home and not attend for work in any other setting in which they have be employed. This is critical in ensuring that we safely protect our staff, pupils and families from Covid-19. It is understood that some staff members may work in roles in multiple settings, however, once isolated, they need to stay at home as per the guidance.  Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms. **Notifying SMBC or Public Health England when there are confirmed Covid-19 cases** Please only notify Solihull Council or Public Health England of ****confirmed**** cases, not suspected cases. To clarify, please notify as follows:   1. If there is a ****single, confirmed case****, notify Solihull Council on ****0121 704 6892**** or [contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk). 2. If you have ****two confirmed cases within 14 days**** (a defined outbreak), please notify ****both****Solihull Council (as above) and Public Health England Health Protection Team using the online reporting system available [****here**** [link]](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/6NE7CBrLXIDBgAyHXJg8J?domain=lnks.gd) or by telephone to ****0344 225 3560 (opt 0 opt 2).**** The out-of-hours Health Protection Team contact number is ****01384 679031.****  **Updated testing and isolation flowchart** The testing flowchart that can be found [below](http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/resources/)**. (Testing Flowchart)**  When there is a confirmed case of C19 in your setting: *you may find the Solihull sample letters, used by schools and settings, useful to support your communications to parents if you have an outbreak of C19.* [*www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/resources*](http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/resources) *and see the cleaning guidance below.*    Close contact means:   * -direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin to skin) * -proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1-2m for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual * -travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person * Any confirmed cases of coronavirus (Covid-19) in the setting (either child or staff member), and if the setting is advised to close as a result, should be swiftly reported to Ofsted through the usual notification channels. * Settings should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation. They should not disclose information about the people [adult or child] with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others. |
| Q: What is Solihull’s advice on cleaning the setting? |
| A: SMBC does not normally recommend the use of bleach for general cleaning in settings, as it is a hazardous chemical and can react with other cleaning products if not used carefully, however, the use of bleach solutions are recommended by Public Health England for infection control purposes.  Frequently touched surfaces should be regularly cleaned with both a disposable cloth and detergent (soapy solution) or disposable cleaning wipe to ensure any organic matter (e.g. dirt, mucous, food) is removed, this will ensure the surface is physically clean prior to disinfecting. The area should then be dried using a disposable cloth/paper towel then disinfected with the cleaning product that the setting normally use. Simply spraying items with disinfectant would not be considered cleaning.  There are many disinfectants that are safe to use around children (e.g. Milton Solution). Childcare settings should ensure they have obtained material [safety data sheets](https://www.hse.gov.uk/chemical-classification/labelling-packaging/safety-data-sheets.htm) for any products used. They also need to carry out a [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) risk assessment](https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/harmful/coshh.htm) for any products classified as hazardous. The risk assessment should then be shared with relevant staff who undertake any cleaning activities.  If making up bleach solutions for infection control purposes careful calculations need to be made following manufacturer instructions. Each product/type of bleach may be of a different concentration depending on its use so may require a different dilution rate. According to Public Health England any sodium hypochlorite solutions for infection control purposes should be diluted to 0.1% or 1000 parts per million (ppm). Whichever solution is used, settings need to ensure that it kills both viruses and bacteria and is used in line with manufacturer instructions. All made up bleach solutions should be used the same day, i.e. only made up and used as needed. National guidance suggests that a thorough cleaning of rooms should be carried out at the end of each day.  Staff will need to be mindful of their skin and clothing to prevent bleach harming both.  Outdoor play equipment should be cleaned between each group of children.  (See Learning Through Landscapes for further guidance <https://www.ltl.org.uk/school-grounds-hygiene-and-cleaning-advice/> )  Tables used during lunchtime should be cleaned between groups of children. If such measures are not possible, children should be brought their lunch in their rooms  Any shared materials and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected more frequently. Any equipment used in practical lessons should be cleaned thoroughly. The learning environment should be occupied by the same children or young people in one day, or properly cleaned between cohorts.  For electronic devices (such as phones, interactive boards, keyboards and screens) settings should follow the manufacturer guidelines. Soft furnishings should be steam cleaned.  Settings should follow [national guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings) contained within Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings  For details on how to clean where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus has left the setting or area follow COVID-19: cleaning in [non-healthcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings) guidance which contains more detailed advice:-  How long does it live on different surfaces?  *Currently it is thought that the virus can live on some common household surfaces for:*   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | *Surface Type* | *Present* | *No Longer Present* | | *Air* | *2-3 hours* |  | | *Paper and tissue* | *30 minutes* | *3 hours* | | *Copper* | *4 hours* | *8 hours* | | *Wood, cloth and cardboard* | *1 day* | *2 days* | | *Glass* | *2 days* | *4 days* | | *Plastic and stainless steel* | *4 days* | *7 days* |   [*Risk Assessment*](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/assets/docs/risk-assessment.pdf)[*Process*](https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/sample-risk-assessment-ra100-covid/)*: Also see* [*EY Opening Considerations*](http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/resources/)  1.Elimination: stop an activity that is not considered essential if there are risks attached.  2.Substitution: replace the activity with another that reduces the risk. Care is required to avoid introducing new hazards due to the substitution.  3.Engineering controls: design measures that help control or mitigate risk.  4.Administrative controls: identify and implement the procedures to improve safety (for example, markings on the floor, signage).  5.Having gone through this process, PPE should be used in circumstances where the guidance says it is required.  [Early Years Coronavirus Actions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures) [Out of School Actions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)  If you have fewer than 5 employees or volunteers, you do not have to write down your health and safety policy, but it might help if you do. |
| Q: Can I use hand sanitizer with young children? |
| Hand sanitiser can be effective as an alternative to hand washing if soap and water is not available, swallowing just a small amount can cause alcohol poisoning in children that can cause low blood sugar, seizures, coma and even death. Therefore, it is important that young children or any child/young person that may not understand this risk does not ingest it. Any hand sanitiser needs to be kept out-of-reach of children and young people. Any use of hand sanitiser by children should be with adult supervision. |

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| Q: If a family returns from a holiday in a country where they will have to self-isolate can I look after the children? |
| A :  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>  Parents and children returning to the UK from a holiday in a country where self-isolation is required will not be able to attend your setting.  Some critical workers do not need to self-isolate … <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules> **If family members or other dependents travel with them, they’ll need to self-isolate for 14 days after they arrive in the UK.** |

For further support please contact:

Solihull Family Information Service - <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/eef/>

Solihull EYSAT <https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/education/children-and-young-peoples-send-service/early-years-send-team-2/>

Early Years and Education Improvement - <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/support/>

[Key Guidance Documents:](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=1d82c57e-3c93-4518-b8f3-49dfb7142afa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull Local Restrictions : https://www.gov.uk/guidance/birmingham-sandwell-and-solihull-local-restrictions

EYFS:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2> - revised and temporary EYFS

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-coronavirus-covid-19> - DfE collections of useful guidance for early years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19> -DfE school guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update> - Ofsted <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-plans-from-september-2020>

Full opening guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> schools

Business support:

<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder> - business finance guidance

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership 0800 032 3488 offers business support <https://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk/business-advice/coronavirus>

For parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Other organisations also have useful information on their websites

<http://outofschoolalliance.co.uk> & <https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-early-years>

You may find this [self-evaluation tool](https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/coronavirus/Elc_keyq5_selfeval__july2020_final.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) from Scotland useful

Toddler groups

For parent & toddler groups, and other activities in which parents remain with their children. The DfE will not be producing specific guidance for these groups. Instead, you should use [MHCLG guidance for the use of community facilities](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/JKW2C362rcXW0VPcgiuJ8?domain=gov.uk) (‘community facilities’ can be interpreted in its broadest sense so includes, for example, schools). You may also wish to refer to [guidance on social distancing](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/4GaOC46RvczR3Gnfx00RN?domain=gov.uk) and [guidance for out of school settings](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/DWNyC579wIMw4OzFyLQs6?domain=gov.uk) where necessary.

Please Do the Right Thing for Solihull **