Updates on 14/12/2020

Self-isolation change from 14 to 10 days

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# ***Q:What will happen in Solihull after 2 December?***

Solihull has been placed into [Tier 3](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/q1KyCk2Zjck0ow8T0QJCN?domain=lnks.gd) and put into a subregional grouping with Coventry and Warwickshire. There will be more detail and guidance coming out over the coming days, however at present there has been no change to the current Covid-19 arrangements for schools.

# ***Q:Do the EYFS Disapplications still apply?***

To support early years providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government is allowing providers to use temporary disapplications and modifications to certain elements of the EYFS where government imposed restrictions impact on a provider’s ability to deliver the EYFS. The specific disapplications and modifications are set out in the [Department for Education’s (DfE) guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications).

# ***Q:My childcare setting meets in a church hall. Will we have to close?***

Places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for formal childcare or where part of a school. [Local restriction tiers - what you need to know](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november?utm_source=2%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#childcare-and-childrens-activities)

# ***Q:I am a childminder and my own children are isolating. Do I have to close?***

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 if they have a confirmed case in their school bubble. The decision to close your home to minded children is a hard one and you will need to look at your context to decide if your circumstances mean that you can continue to mind or if its best for you and the children to close.

# ***Q: The parent of a child in our setting has just arrived back from Denmark. What should they do?***

From 4am on Saturday 7 November 2020 there are new [rules for anyone arriving in the UK from Denmark](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/travel-ban-implemented-to-protect-public-health-following-denmark-covid-19-mink-outbreak). This includes travellers from the Faroe Islands and Greenland who transit through Denmark. British nationals, visa holders and permanent residents who have travelled to Denmark in the preceding 14 days will have to self-isolate along with their household. Other visitors travelling from Denmark will not be permitted to enter the UK.

From 4am on Sunday 8 November 2020 [these measures were extended](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measures-to-protect-england-from-new-covid-19-strain-extended). Passenger planes and ships travelling directly from Denmark, and accompanied freight, will no longer be able to land or dock at English ports.

For other countries, check the list on [foreign travel advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

# ***Q:Are Ofsted still Carrying out inspection visits?***

During the [national lockdown starting on 5 November](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november) Ofsted will carry out work remotely where they can, only going on site where it is necessary to do so, or in response to urgent concerns. [Interim visits in Early Years registered settings](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/interim-visits-registered-early-years-providers?utm_source=b3f82db4-29a1-45f9-a471-d129c6be7bd2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

They will:

* continue to carry out regulatory work in early years to respond to safeguarding concerns or breakdown in leadership.
* continue investigatory work into unregistered schools/early years provision.
* continue to visit early years settings where there are significant safeguarding concerns
* continue with registration work.
* continue with enforcement activity where necessary.
* risk assess Childcare Register inspections and early years interim visits and either:
  + deliver these remotely
  + make a visit, if it is safe and necessary [Carrying out Childcare Register inspections](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/D2gjC836zFXDpD9FRWJFb?domain=gov.uk)

When full routine early years inspections resume Ofsted will introduce a new approach to inspecting early years providers which will give good and outstanding providers more consistency while prioritising providers rated less than good. For more information follow this [link.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-announces-new-early-years-inspection-arrangements)

# ***Q:Can I gather in a group of more than 6 for childcare?***

Since 20 July, early years settings have no longer been required to keep children in small, consistent groups within settings but can return to normal group sizes.

Where early years settings are also caring for children over the age of 5, they should ensure they are also following guidance on [protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak](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#consider-group) which includes guidance on group sizes.

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.

# ***Q:Is there additional information for childcare and education settings?***

In local areas where restrictions have been implemented for certain sectors it is anticipated that education and childcare will usually remain fully open to all. In the exceptional circumstances where some level of restriction to education or childcare is required in a local area, local and national partners will carefully consider which of the tiers is the most appropriate one to implement. The updated [CONTAIN](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks) guidance sets out four tiers of restrictions for education settings.

Tier 1 -All settings remain open with no other restrictions in place.

Tier 2 - Secondary schools move to a rota model, combining on-site provision with remote education.

Tier 3 - 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. Remote education to be provided for all other pupils.

Tier 4 - All settings allow full-time attendance on site only to our priority groups. 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.

# ***Q:Who is eligible for free flu vaccines?***

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. <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)

# ***Q:Should I be wearing a face covering?***

[The latest evidence and advice](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) 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. See [Early Years Actions –use of face coverings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#considerations-for-operating-the-setting)

[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: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.

# ***Q:Can we use sand and water in our setting?***

DfE advise that:

settings should risk assess activities that involve malleable materials for messy play such as sand, mud and water, as part of their regular curriculum planning. A risk assessment should consider whether materials can be handled by a small, consistent group of children of no more than 15 at a time (to meet ratio requirements), and that no one else outside of this group can come into contact with it. Also, the malleable material for messy play (e.g. sand/water/mud) can be used and cleaned - including being replaced - in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, where applicable. Settings should follow the system of controls and ensure that children wash their hands thoroughly before and after messy play. Also, frequently touched surfaces, equipment, tools and resources for messy play are thoroughly cleaned and dried before they are used by a different group. Further general cleaning advice can be found in the  COVID-19: [cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings).

# ***Q:How can we keep our setting well ventilated without it being too cold?***

DfE advise that:

In colder weather windows should be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and periodically opened more fully when it is safe to do so to purge the air in the space. Further advice on this can be found in [Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation.htm) and [CIBSE Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice](https://www.cibse.org/coronavirus-covid-19/emerging-from-lockdown) . To balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature, the following measures should also be used as appropriate: opening high level windows in preference to low level to reduce draughts, increasing the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied, and, rearranging furniture where possible to avoid direct drafts. Heating should be used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained, particularly in occupied spaces.

# ***Q:What information do I need to tell the 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 until further notice

# ***Q:What do I do if a known vulnerable child has to isolate?***

If a child is being sent home to isolate as part of a bubble closure and is known to have an allocated social worker, we would ask that settings make contact with the allocated worker either directly or via the main children’s social care number on 0121 788 4300 to advise of the situation and agree monitoring and support during the isolation period. It would be helpful for settings to contact their Area SENCo if a child that EYSAT work with is isolated. [A list is available [here](https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/education/children-and-young-peoples-send-service/early-years-send-team-2/) ]

# ***Q:What information do I need to tell Ofsted?***

You must inform Ofsted about…an illnesses to a child, *including confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus)* by using the link [Tell Ofsted if you have a COVID-19 incident at your childcare business](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tell-ofsted-if-you-have-a-covid-19-incident-at-your-childcare-business)

More information is available on what Ofsted sees as a [serious accident, injury or illness](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-reporting-childrens-accidents-and-injuries) that you must report.

Please report:

* any confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the setting, either in children or staff
* if the setting is advised to close as a result

You should report this as an “*Event likely to impact on the smooth running of the setting*”.

Please also confirm:

* the date when cases were first suspected
* the date when cases were confirmed as positive
* the total number of children attending the setting at the time of the suspected case
* the total number of staff working at the setting at the time of the suspected case
* the date the setting is closing from, and when you intend to re-open (if applicable)
* if you have notified the case to Public Health England via the [Department for Education helpline](https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe)  or *Solihull Public Health*
* the advice provided by the DfE helpline, if applicable:   [or Solihull Public Health]
* if you have advised the local authority (yes or no)
* any other action taken

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. The serious event notification form can be found via [Ofsted Applications.](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/ByumCOgyXfNJl2EFEwmKh?domain=gov.uk)

# ***Q: What happens if a child or staff member shows symptoms of coronavirus?***

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 10 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.

Getting a test for coronavirus:

Tests conducted at a testing site will deliver the fastest results. Individuals must [book a test in advance](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test?utm_source=16%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) or they will not be given a test. People can also order home test kits to be sent directly to them. These routes remain the primary channels for any individuals displaying coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms to get a test. We suggest you try and find a booking after 8pm and keep refreshing or re-entering the webpage so that new appointments appear.

# ***Q: Can we ask for evidence of a test result?***

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 happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a childcare setting?***

Where the child or staff member tests positive follow the ‘Procedure for Managing Covid-19 Cases in Educational Settings in Solihull’



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.

When Solihull Council Public Health advises on a situation, they will notify Public Health England of the confirmed cases on behalf of schools/settings to ensure information flow.

# ***Useful documents***

**\*Some documents have not yet been updated with the new 10 day isolation period\***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Testing flowchart |  | Response to COVID-19 Symptoms and Cases  In Solihull Educational Settings |
|  | Procedure for Managing Covid-19 Cases in Educational Settings in Solihull |  | Considerations for local lockdown and when partial closure/ full closure is necessary due to Cv19 infection. |
|  | How to get tested |  | What to do if a child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) |
| Public Health England has drafted some letters for you to customise to send out to your parent community. | | [Early Years Resources](http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/resources/) | |

# ***Useful guidance***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)](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) | Guidance documents for schools, other providers and parents |
| [Local restrictions](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/birmingham-sandwell-and-solihull-local-restrictions) | Information on local COVID alert levels, including what they mean, why they are being introduced and what the different levels are. |
| [EYFS](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2) | revised and temporary EYFS |
| [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/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 providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. |
| [Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update) | Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers. |
| [Education plans from September 2020](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-plans-from-september-2020) | Guidance for education providers about Ofsted’s phased return to inspection. |
| [Guidance for full opening: schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools) | It continues to be the aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time throughout the autumn term. This guidance is intended to support schools, both mainstream and alternative provision, to prepare for this. |
| [Find coronavirus financial support for your business](https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder) | Use this business support finder to see what support is available for you and your business. |
| [Recovery Advice for Business](https://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk/news/recovery-advice-for-business) | The Professional and Business Services sector and Enterprise Nation have teamed up for six months, supported by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, to offer SMEs free advice to help them recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. |
| [Guidance 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) | What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term |
| [Out of School Alliance](https://outofschoolalliance.co.uk/coronavirus-update) | Help and support for out of school clubs |
| [Early Years Alliance](https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-early-years) | Support for early years providers |
| [NDNA](https://www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/Knowledge_Hub/Coronavirus_for_nurseries_early_years.aspx) | Supporting nurseries across the UK |
| [Pacey](https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/coronavirus/) | Supporting everyone working in childcare |
| [Care Inspectorate Scotland](https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/coronavirus/) | Self-evaluation - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during COVID-19 |

# ***Glossary of terms***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Case*** | an individual case of Coronavirus |
| ***Cluster*** | 2 or more cases associated with a specific setting in the absence of evidence of a common exposure or link to another case |
| ***Outbreak*** | 2 or more confirmed cases associated with a specific setting with evidence of a common exposure or link to another case |
| ***Contact*** | A ***contact***can be:   * people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 * sexual partners * a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:   + being coughed on   + having a face-to-face conversation within one metre   + having skin-to-skin physical contact, or   + contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact * a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes * a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 |

# ***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/>

Please Do the Right Thing for Solihull **