

NET Covid update 22.02.22

	DfE guidance	NET guidance
	<p><b>Prime Minister's announcement on the Living with COVID-19 plan</b>            On 21.02.22 the Prime Minister has set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response '<a href="#">Living with COVID-19</a>'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.            Further information on what this means for education and childcare settings and children's social care services is below.</p>	
	<p><b>Closure of the UKHSA advice service</b>            Following the Prime Minister's announcement confirming that self-isolation is no longer a legal requirement following a positive test and the publication of the <a href="#">Living with COVID-19 plan</a>, the UKHSA advice service will be decommissioned from 31 March 2022.            The UKHSA advice service, accessed through option 1 of the DfE COVID-19 helpline, was introduced by UKHSA's predecessor, Public Health England (PHE), in September 2020. This was to provide advice to education and childcare settings on the action they should take to respond to positive cases of COVID-19 in their setting.            The DfE COVID-19 helpline will still be available to answer your questions relating to COVID-19 in education and childcare settings, once the UKHSA advice service is switched off</p>	
	<p><b>When to register your settings bank details to receive funding to support the 12 to 15 year old vaccination programme</b>            On the Monday 24 January it was <a href="#">announced that schools will receive at least £1,000</a> each to support engagement with the vaccination programme. Bank details only need to be <a href="#">registered</a> by settings not currently in receipt of Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding which we envisage will mainly be independent special schools. Most schools, including maintained schools, will be paid through their local authority and academies will also be paid directly, therefore will not need to take any action.</p>	
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Changes to testing in education</p>	<p>For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision and children's social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits</li> <li>residential SEND settings may be advised by their local health protection team to re-introduce some time-limited asymptomatic testing. This would be an exceptional measure, for targeted groups of staff and pupils or students (secondary age or above) in the event of a possible COVID-19 outbreak. These settings are scheduled to receive an automatic delivery of contingency supply test kits during the week commencing Monday 28 March</li> <li>the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will publish new guidance. Most of the specific COVID-19 guidance for education and childcare settings will be withdrawn from GOV.UK on Friday 1 April. The operational guidance on the <a href="#">testing in education settings document sharing platform</a> will also be removed on the same day</li> </ul>	<p>Follow DfE guidance</p> <p>Refer to PHN advice for outbreaks</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts</p>	<p>From Friday 1 April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature</li> <li>children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend</li> <li>adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days</li> </ul> <p>The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.            The government will no longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and a symptomatic testing for the general public in England.</p>	<p>Follow DfE guidance</p>

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<p>Improving natural ventilation</p>	<p>If you identify an area that needs improvement, inform SLT so a review can be taken. Don't close doors or windows completely when people are in a naturally ventilated area. This can result in very low levels of ventilation. Cooler, windier weather increases natural ventilation through openings. This means you don't need to open windows and doors so wide. Rooms are to be ventilated by opening windows to allow air flow whilst the room is occupied. If the temperature is too low and not conducive for learning with windows open, the door to the classroom must be left open for increased air flow and windows left open during break times. Spaces where air conditioning is fitted can be used, we have been advised it is safe to do so. CO2 monitors to be placed in least ventilated areas and windows and doors to be opened further is the ventilation goes above 1500ppm Co2 concentration.</p>	<p>If you identify an area that needs improvement, inform DAH so a review can be taken</p>
<p>Hand hygiene</p>	<p>Ensure the school has enough <b>hand washing</b> or hand sanitiser 'stations' available so that all pupils and staff can <b>clean their hands regularly</b>. Supervision of hand sanitiser use given risks around ingestion. Small children and pupils with complex needs should continue to be helped to clean their hands properly.  <b>Building these routines into school culture</b>, supported by behaviour expectations and helping ensure younger children and those with complex needs understand the need to follow them.</p>	<p>Staff must ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly.  Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach</p>	<p>The '<b>catch it, bin it, kill it</b>' approach continues to be very important, ensure you have enough tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine.  Staff must ensure younger children and those with complex needs are helped to get this right, and all pupils understand that this is now part of how school operates.</p>	<p>COVID19 information posters are in place. Regular reminders/ awareness for children. Posters will be displayed for: Hand washing Catch It, Kill It, Bin It</p>