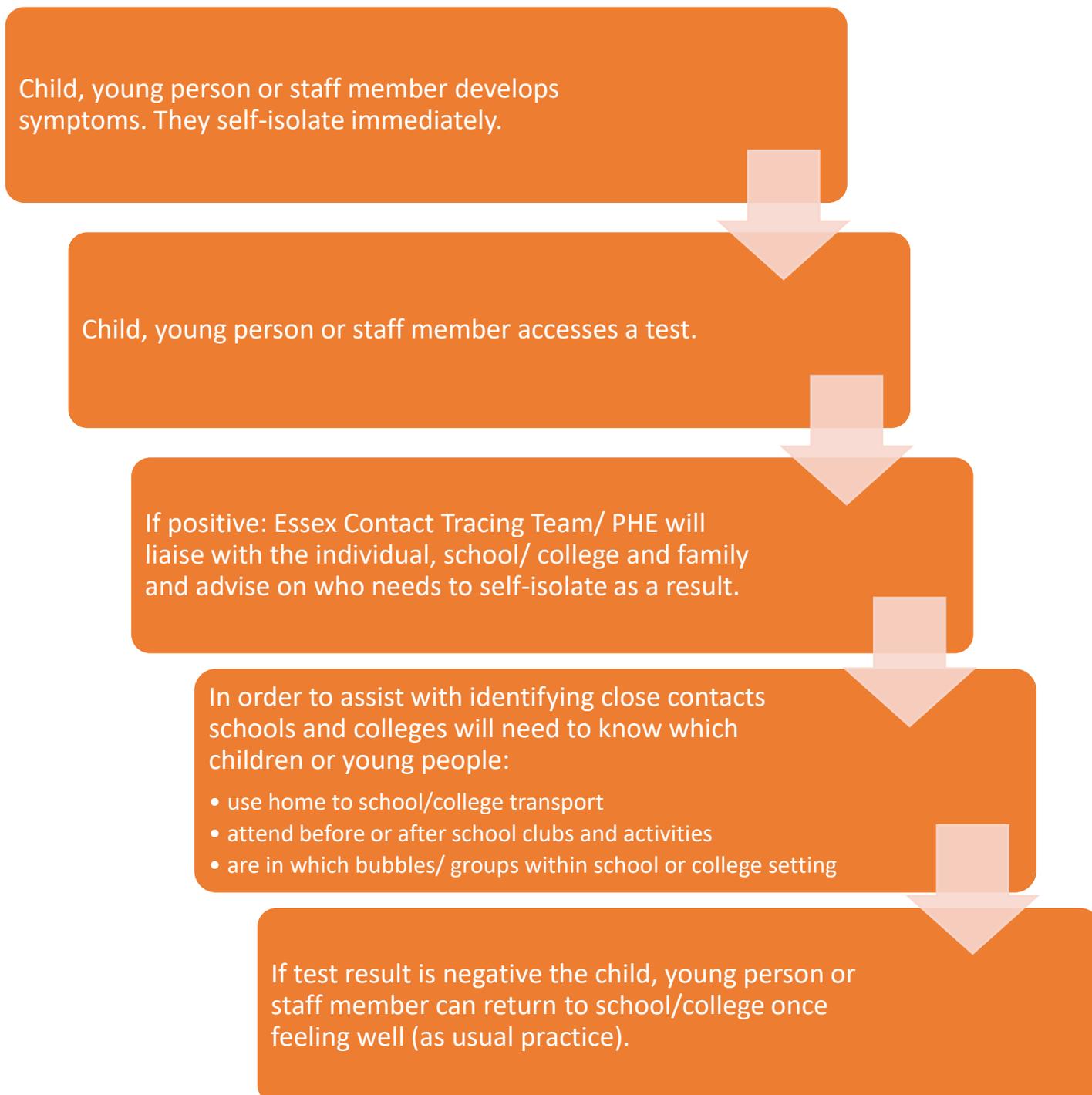


Responding to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID19 – Schools and Colleges

Updated 8th September

Overview:



Sources: [Full Opening Guidance safe working in education implementing the protective measures in education](#)
Public Health advice
[testing and tracing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

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| <p>If symptoms develop during the school/college day:</p> | <p>If a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms of the coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate immediately, only leaving the house to access a test.</p> <p>If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision if required depending on the age of the child. Ideally, a window should be opened 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.</p> <p>If they need 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.</p> <p>PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if direct personal care is needed and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).</p> |
| <p>If a child/staff member begins displaying symptoms outside of school/college.</p> | <p>The individual must not come to school/college. You should encourage them to seek a test and request that they inform you of the outcome of their test.</p> <p>If the individual arrives at school/ college, they should be sent home immediately.</p> |
| <p>How to Access a Test</p> | <p>Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.</p> |
| <p>Home Testing Kits</p> | <p>From the autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that can be given directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where you think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided by PHE alongside these kits.</p> <p>Our understanding is that these kits are not for use by school staff to test children.</p> |

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| <p>If a pupil or staff member tests positive – identifying others who need to self-isolate.</p> | <p>When an individual tests positive for COVID19 the NHS Test and Trace programme is engaged. For schools and colleges, this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Essex Contact Tracing Team (ECTT) will liaise with that individual to understand their recent movements • The team will contact the school/college to carry out a ‘rapid risk assessment’ and confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious. The school/college will need to have information readily available, on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which children and staff are in which groups in school/ college ○ Which children travel to school on home to school transport ○ Which children and staff attend before/after school clubs • If the child has used home to school transport the ECTT may need to liaise with the operator directly to ascertain any additional children using the same transport who also need to self-isolate • The school/ college must send home those staff and pupils identified as having been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person (during the infections period as advised by ECTT) • The ECTT will also liaise with the family (if it is a pupil) to identify any out of school/college, social close contacts. Schools/ colleges are not expected to know which contacts their staff or pupils have had outside of school/ college. <p>Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If this occurs, they must follow the process for anyone who develops COVID19 symptoms; self-isolate and seek a test.</p> |
| <p>Self-isolation following a positive test</p> | <p>If an individual tests positive they must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school/ college only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This</p> |

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| | <p>is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.</p> <p>The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill.</p> <p>Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.</p> <p><u>‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’</u></p> |
| <p>Informing Public Health of positive case/s</p> | <p>If there is a confirmed case within your school/ college in a member of staff or child/young person, you should inform Public Health.</p> <p>To notify a case(s) to PHE, you can call Public Health England (PHE) in the East of England on 0300 303 8537 (option 1). If the matter is not urgent, you can also email: eoecrc@phe.gov.uk to notify PHE.</p> <p>We also ask that you inform schoolscommunication@essex.gov.uk</p> |
| <p>Cleaning the area following a case of COVID 19</p> | <p>All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including; bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells.</p> <p>Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, following one of the options below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine • a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer’s instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants • if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses |

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| | <p>Areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.</p> <p>Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.</p> <p>Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.</p> <p>The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) is disposable gloves and an apron.</p> <p>Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.</p> |
| <p>Who should access a test?</p> | <p>The symptomatic individual should access a test as soon as possible.</p> <p>The symptoms for testing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) • new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) • loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal <p>Contacts of this individual should only access testing if they themselves become symptomatic.</p> <p>If a contact who has been asked to self-isolate, goes on to display symptoms, accesses a test but it is negative – they still cannot return to school/ college until they have completed their 14 days isolation period (this is because they still might go on to become positive during the 14 days).</p> |
| <p>Accessing testing</p> | <p>Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.</p> <p>The options for the test are:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at a local test site today and get the results tomorrow • with a home test kit if they cannot get to a test site, results expected within 72 hours. |
| Accessing testing for children: | Anyone with symptoms can get a coronavirus test, whatever their age. Parents should book a test via the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website , or order by telephone via 119 for those without access to the internet. |
| Returning to school/college/work | <p>Where the original individual tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.</p> <p>Where the child/staff member tests positive – they may return to school/ college after 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.</p> <p>If someone is symptomatic, tests positive and works with a vulnerable group/individual, who has greater vulnerability than the general population, it is sensible they are excluded for 14 rather than 10 days.</p> |
| Disposing of waste | <p>To dispose of waste from people with symptoms of coronavirus, such as disposable cleaning cloths, tissues and PPE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put it in a plastic rubbish bag and tie it • place the plastic bag in a second bin bag and tie it • put it in a suitable and secure place marked for storage for 72 hours <p>Waste should be stored safely and securely kept away from children. You should not put your waste in communal waste areas until the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours. Storing for 72 hours saves unnecessary waste movements and minimises the risk to waste operatives. This waste does not require a dedicated clinical waste collection in the above circumstances.</p> |

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| | <p>If, in an emergency, you need to remove the waste before 72 hours, it must be treated as Category B infectious waste. You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep it separate from your other waste • arrange for collection by a specialist contractor as hazardous waste <p>There will be a charge for this service.</p> |
| <p>Remote Learning for those self-isolating</p> | <p>Where a pupil is unable to attend school/ college because they, and/or their parents, are complying with clinical or public health advice, schools/ colleges should immediately offer access to remote education.</p> <p>The expectations around remote learning are included in the Remote Education Support Guidance, with more information expected in September.</p> |

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