

16/9/20

What will happen if there is a positive COVID 19 test result in school?

DFE Advice updated 10 September 2020

If someone tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Schools should contact the local health protection team...Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have 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 when they were infectious. 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 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

What this means for our school

Following this advice it is likely that the bubble (in our case, class) that the infected person is in would need to self-isolate and would not be able to return to school for 14 days.

We make sure that our bubbles are kept apart so as to reduce the impact of one positive case. The following scenarios are likely:

Scenario 1 - Johnny in Turtles tests positive, he has no siblings in school:

- Johnny and his entire household need to self-isolate for 14 days (technically Johnny for 10 days but this would not work for obvious reasons). Every adult and child in Turtles needs to self-isolate for 14 days. They do not need to book a Covid test and other members of their family do not need to self-isolate unless they also develop symptoms. Every other class would continue in school as normal. Track and Trace would speak to Johnny's family and would contact anybody who had been in close contact with Johnny.

Scenario 2 – Bobby in Year 3 tests positive, he has a sister, Mary, in Year 4. She is symptom-free:

- Bobby and his entire household, including Mary in Year 4, need to self-isolate for 14 days. Every adult and child in Year 3 needs to self-isolate for 14 days. They do not need to book a Covid test and other members of their family do not need to self-isolate unless they also develop symptoms. Children in Year 4 do not need to self-isolate unless Mary also begins to show symptoms. Every other class would continue in school as normal. Track and Trace would speak to Bobby's family and would contact anybody who had been in close contact with Bobby.

Scenario 2B (added on 14 Oct) – Bobby in Year 3 has a sister, Molly, at secondary school. Molly has been sent home to isolate for 14 days because a child in her class tested positive. She is symptom-free:

- Molly needs to isolate as instructed by secondary school. Bobby continues to attend school as normal while his sister remains symptom free. If Bobby's sister develops symptoms, she should book a Covid test and Bobby must isolate until his sister receives a negative result. If she receives a positive result, Bobby will isolate for 14 days.

Scenario 3 – A staff member in Year 5 tests positive, he or she has not been in contact with any other class in school:

- The staff member needs to isolate for 10 days and their entire household needs to self-isolate for 14 days. Every other adult and child in Year 5 needs to self-isolate for 14 days. They do not need to book a Covid test and other members of their family do not need to self-isolate unless they also develop symptoms. Every other class would continue in school as normal. Track and Trace would speak to the staff member and would contact anybody who had been in close contact with them.

Scenario 4 – A staff member in Seals class tests positive. The staff member has also been working in Year 4 but has adhered to the school risk assessment and has therefore maintained a two metre distance and /or worn a face visor whilst in Year 4 (This also applies to Mr. Leeming who is EVERYWHERE). We can therefore assume that Year 4 remains unaffected:

- The staff member and their entire household needs to self-isolate for 14 days. Every other adult and child in Seals needs to self-isolate for 14 days. They do not need to book a Covid test and other members of their family do not need to self-isolate unless they also develop symptoms. Every other class, including Year 4, would continue in school as normal. Track and Trace would speak to the staff member and would contact anybody who had been in close contact with them.

Scenario 5 – A member of the kitchen staff receives a positive result.

- The staff member and anyone in their household or social bubble needs to self-isolate for 14 days. We would take advice from the Health Protection Team on this at the time. No other adult or child in school would need to self-isolate and the school would stay open. **Please note that it is likely at this point that the school kitchen would have to close for a few days. I would send an app message at the earliest opportunity to advise all parents to send children with a packed lunch. Please have some food items on standby for such an eventuality.**

Scenario 6 – There is more than one positive result in school.

- School would call the local health protection team. It may be that the entire school would be closed. I would advise parents as soon as possible through the App.

I will be soon be sending information about our contingency plans for remote learning in the event of pupils isolating from school.