

Update from Wellbeing and Public Health

Thursday, 07/04/2022 | Wellbeing and Public Health



We are conscious that in the absence of further guidance that is still awaited for schools, and as the end of term approaches, you may wish to communicate with parents new expectations on managing Covid.

Covid has now fallen in line with other high consequence infectious diseases transmitted by the airborne route such as Influenza, RSV, or other novel respiratory viruses, or acute respiratory infections and as such, your management of this infection will now mirror that of any other ARI. If you were considering communicating to parents at the end of term, or ahead of the start of the summer term, we have outlined some key points that you are welcome to use to help explain the new stance on living with covid.

Please consider communicating the following to parents:

As we learn to live safely with coronavirus (COVID-19), there are actions we can all take to help reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and passing it on to others. These actions will also help to reduce the spread of other respiratory infections, such as flu, which can spread easily and may cause serious illness in some people. There are simple things you can do in your daily life that will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections and protect those at highest risk. Things you can choose to do are:

- Get vaccinated
- Wash your hands frequently throughout the day
- Wear a face mask in crowded or poorly ventilated areas, or when mixing with people you do not normally mix with
- Remember to keep your distance as much as possible when socialising with people who you do not normally mix with
- Good ventilation is really important
- Mix outside as much as possible
- Catch it, bin it, kill it – use a tissue when sneezing and place it in the bin

Face coverings and face masks can help reduce the chance of you spreading infection to others, especially in crowded and enclosed spaces, and may protect you from becoming infected by some respiratory viruses.

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

- 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

- 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
- 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

There is [guidance on steps you can take to protect other people if you are unwell with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19](#).

If you have not already done so, please consider getting vaccinated

Vaccines are the best defence we have against COVID-19 and other respiratory infections such as flu. They provide good protection against hospitalisation and death. They also reduce the risk of long-term symptoms. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and vaccine programmes are continuously monitored.

If you are eligible and you have not yet received your full course of a COVID-19 vaccine, you should [get vaccinated](#). A full course of a COVID-19 vaccine provides protection against severe disease, including against the Omicron variant, but this protection wears off over time. Booster doses significantly improve the protection offered by vaccines. You should get a booster vaccine for COVID-19 if you are offered one.

You may be eligible for other vaccinations, particularly if you are at risk of becoming seriously ill. Get vaccinated as soon as you are able to.

Teachers

We have not left you...! We are still here to answer any questions or concerns that you may have with regard to covid or any other health protection issue. However, we do not require you to use outbreak / cluster forms or refer to the contingency framework prior to engaging with us. Please continue to use our email address: phnotifications@cornwall.gov.uk or call us on 018972 322027 if you wish to contact us.

You may find these useful:

Please follow link for DfE Living with Covid webinar which sets out wider governance approach to living with covid and what this means in practice for EYES.

[\(373\) Living with Covid - Next Steps for Education and Childcare Settings Webinar - YouTube](#)

The Health Protection in education and childcare facilities is now live. You will note that the guidelines for Covid have been added under respiratory illness.

[Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Finally, we would like to thank you for all of your efforts over the last two years in managing the pandemic. It has been a pleasure to engage with you and we hope that our partnership working will continue.

Rachel Wigglesworth

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