

This advice is for educational establishments in Northamptonshire who require information about dealing with possible or confirmed cases of Coronavirus in their educational community

Guidance on Coronavirus for educational establishments

In the UK Coronavirus (or COVID-19) has been classified as an airborne high consequence infectious disease. The virus spreads easily from one person to another, most likely through drops of saliva or mucus in the air, which can reach up to six feet away when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The infected droplets can be breathed in by anyone else in the affected area or land on surfaces such as desks, keyboards, handles, etc and then transferred to others through touching hands, sharing a cup, glass or toys, touching a handle or light switch, etc.

Self-isolation is now based on the evidence of symptoms only, travel and contact history have been removed from diagnosis or self-isolation. If a person does not have any of the specified symptoms (high temperature, ie over 37.8 C /100.4 F and a new persistent cough) they do not need to self-isolate, regardless of their travel or contact history.

Establishment leaders and staff should take note of the following advice:

Self-isolation

As of 12 March, the UK is in the **delay** phase.

Current advice recommends anyone who is showing symptoms to self-isolate (symptoms include high temperature, ie over 37.8 C /100.4 F and a new persistent cough).

Self-isolation should last for at least 7 days, even if the symptoms are mild.

If the symptoms have not improved after 7 days the NHS 111 online coronavirus service should be contacted for further advice (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>).

If a pupil or member of staff is in self-isolation

To reduce the possibility of transmission to others:

- The person self- isolating should stay at home and not attend the establishment for at least 7 days.
- If the person has improved after the 7 day period they can return to the establishment. Where the symptoms have not improved, or got worse, the person should contact the NHS 111 online coronavirus service for advice.
- The current national recommendation is that the establishment can remain open, and does not need to close.
- The establishment should arrange for routine cleaning to be undertaken. Public Health England will suggest if any deep cleaning procedures should be implemented, no further measures should usually be required.

If a pupil or member of staff develops symptoms whilst in the establishment

- If the person is in the establishment when they develop symptoms they should leave immediately, and follow the information provided above.

If a pupil or member of staff has been in contact with a person who is self-isolating

- Anyone who has been in contact with the person prior to their isolation does not need to take any action or change any of their activities.
- They should be aware of the symptoms to look out for that may indicate they have the virus, and follow any advice given.

If a pupil or member of staff lives in a household where someone is self-isolating

The person in the household may be someone who lives there permanently or a person who is visiting or staying in the house temporarily.

- The person who is self-isolating should remain separate from anyone else in the household as much as possible and measures should be taken to maintain the cleanliness of the house and follow the advice provided.
- As long as the advice about self-isolation has been observed, the other people who live in the household do not need to take any action or change any of their activities.
- They should be aware of the symptoms to look out for that may indicate they have the virus.

Closure of the establishment

As the current national recommendation is that educational establishments should remain open.

Any decision about closure due to Coronavirus should be made by the head of the establishment and the governing body. In the event of closure, the establishment's own contingency arrangements for closure should be implemented.

For further information

Visit:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

If you have not recovered after the 7 day period of isolation or your symptoms have got worse, contact the NHS 111 online coronavirus service (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>).

Information is correct at the time of publication, additional or alternative information may be issued due to the changing situation.