

Suspected Case of Covid 19 Policy

Revised: June 2020
Review date: As appropriate

As per government guidance 3rd June 2020.

At St Mary's we believe we have a duty of care to all our pupils, families and staff. In the case of a suspected case of Covid 19 we would let families and staff members associated with that specific 'bubble' know so that they could make an informed choice as to their next steps. This is to minimise any health risks to a particular individual of that we might not be aware of (e.g. someone who was pregnant).

A Child with Symptoms

If anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19 symptoms in an education setting they must be sent home and advised to follow the [staying at home guidance](#).

Symptoms are a temperature, a continuous cough and/or loss of smell or taste.

Children will be moved to the hall where they can be isolated in a well ventilated space with room for an adult to supervise them. The adult supporting them should wear full PPE and where possible keep a 2 metre distance. The 2 metre distance may not be possible to maintain with a very young child or one who has complex needs. Where possible the child should wear a face mask.

If the child need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they should use the disabled toilet which will then be out of use for all other members of staff from 'bubble' K until it has had a deep clean. The school office will be responsible for informing staff of this.

The child's parents will be contacted and informed of the need to collect their child immediately. They will need to seek medical advice, access a test and will not be allowed to return to school until they have received the results of the test. Next steps will be decided from the outcome of the test.

Parents and staff from the child's bubble will be informed of the suspected case by SLT.

Government Guidance for Staff

If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with coronavirus (COVID-19) [symptoms](#), they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

If staff members have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, OR receive a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test result, the clear medical advice is to immediately self-isolate at home for at least 7 days from when symptoms started. They must arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days

Government Guidance for Pupils

All students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days until a risk assessment with the DFE has been completed. This will identify the persons 'contacts' and clarify those that need to self-isolate. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national [test and trace](#) programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Testing

When any member of the community, including e.g. staff member or child is symptomatic, they will be advised to book a coronavirus test on the government website.

- [Essential workers \(school staff\)](#)
- [Members of the public \(Children\)](#)

If the test is positive, the child's family or staff member will be contacted by a contact tracer. They will be advised to give details of significant social contact, defined as more than 15 minutes at a distance of less than 2m away. The contact tracers will then phone all significant contacts that have been identified and advise them whether they (and their household contacts) need to take a coronavirus test and whether they need to self-isolate.

In the event of a positive test in a child or staff member, the rest of the bubble, including adults may be required to self-isolate for 14 days depending on whether they have been a contact. Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take.