

# Confirmed case of COVID-19—Primary Schools

Pupil/member of staff unwell with new continuous cough or high temperature or loss of taste or smell

Confirmed case immediately sent home and advised to get a test (via <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test> or by calling the free phone number 119 between the hours of 7am to 11pm) and follow the stay at home guidance - self isolate for at least 10 days from the date of symptom onset (their fellow household members and extended household members with whom they had contact in the two days before the person developed symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days).

**Positive test** - if a pupil or member of staff tests positive, contact tracers from the Test, Track and Protect Service will get in touch with the school and with all close contacts. A **close contact** is defined as **someone within 1 metre of you with whom you've had a face-to-face conversation, had skin-to-skin physical contact, you have coughed on, or been on other forms of contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer; someone within 2 metres of you for more than 15 minutes; and someone you have travelled in a vehicle with, or seated near you in public transport.** In the first instance, please complete and Submit the Confirmed Case Notification Form using the following link [School Covid 19 Confirmed Case Form](#). This will be submitted to [EducationConfirmedCase@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:EducationConfirmedCase@rctcbc.gov.uk) which will be accessed 7 days a week by senior officers. Schools should immediately communicate to the potential close contacts using Letter 1 that they need to self-isolate for a 24 hour period to enable contact tracers/school to identify whether they are confirmed close contacts or not. Letter 2 should also be simultaneously sent to all parents advising them of a confirmed case. Once close contacts have been confirmed by contact tracing/school, the school should send Letter 3 to the confirmed contacts outlining the need for a further 13 days of isolation. Letter 4 should be sent to all non-contacts, within 24 hours at the latest, outlining an immediate return to school date. Please note: that the initial investigations should not exceed 24 hours, and where possible, these should be undertaken on the same day as the confirmed case notification.

Where a pupil/member of staff tests positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of onset of symptoms. Their household should self-isolate for 14 days and the rest of their class or contact group(s) within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the pupil or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

**NOTE:** Pupils/staff should only request a test if they are symptomatic (not if they suspect contact with a potentially positive case). If a contact of a positive case starts to develop symptoms within their 14 day isolation period, they should book a test. If a confirmed contact develops symptoms, their household must self isolate for 14 days.

Where a pupil/member of staff is an index case (i.e. they developed symptoms independently of direct contact with a confirmed case), - if they test **negative** then they can return to their school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation. If they test **positive**, they can return to school after 10 days from onset of symptoms and their fellow household members and other contacts identified through contact tracing must continue their self-isolation for 14 days. Confirmation of their diagnosis should be requested and further advice sought from [CoronavirusCouncilAdvice@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:CoronavirusCouncilAdvice@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**Negative test** - If a direct contact of a confirmed case receives a negative test result themselves - they will still need to isolate for 14 days from the last point of contact with a confirmed case. Their household is however released from isolation.

**Positive test** - If a direct contact of a confirmed case receives a positive test themselves - they must commence a new 10 day self-isolation period. Their household must then continue to complete their 14 days self isolation that started from day of onset of case symptoms.

## **IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:-**

A negative test result does not always mean that a return to school is appropriate. If self-isolation is the result of one of the following scenarios, then irrespective of having a negative test, isolation for the full self-isolation period of 14 days should be adhered to:-

- Contact with a confirmed case; or
- Direction from Track, Trace and Protect; or
- Quarantine after requiring from abroad.

Schools are required to undertake investigations to establish close contact groups, including the review of seating plans, registers, CCTV and discussions with social groups. Schools should encourage learners to keep a daily record in their planners of who they sit next to on school transport, during lunch and break times. Maintaining class sized contact groups in primary school will be essential, both in lessons and during unstructured periods and robust controls put in place to minimise staff movement. This will be important in minimising the need for self-isolation in the event of confirmed cases.

Escorts on school transport should instruct children to sit in year groups on the bus where possible. There is however an acknowledgement that children will have to pass each other to get to year group seats in the mornings. Children should be directed to sit on the homeward journey with the eldest children seated in the back and the youngest in the front. In the event of a confirmed bases on the school bus, class and confirmed case will have to self-isolate and school required to advise the parent.

Schools to reinforce social distancing on the bus stops and recommend mask wearing at bus stops too. If there is a confirmed case on school taxi (up to 15 learners on board), unless all individuals in the taxi are wearing surgical grade fluid repellent mask as a minimum, all people will be regarded as close contacts. The decision whether to self-isolate the children on school taxis will be made by the Integrated Transport Unit in partnership with schools and Public Health and Protection colleagues.

Further information can be provided by [CoronavirusCouncilAdvice@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:CoronavirusCouncilAdvice@rctcbc.gov.uk). If schools want to verify or report cases in their setting this should be done via [Contacttracingsercict@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Contacttracingsercict@rctcbc.gov.uk) as this gets directly to the Regional Test, Trace, Protect Service. All important Education queries about confirmed cases should be sent to [EducationConfirmedCase@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:EducationConfirmedCase@rctcbc.gov.uk). This inbox will be checked by senior officers 7 days a week.

Other sources of information:-

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/operational-guidance-for-schools-and-settings-from-the-autumn-term.pdf>

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus>