

On 21 February, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response.

The School's Operational Guidance has been revised in the light of this and to support schools and settings in reducing disruption to children and young people's education whilst we learn to live with Covid 19.

The DfE have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to revise the latest guidance. **This advice will be reviewed on or before 01 April, when further guidance is due to be published.**

Links to this can be found here:

For education and childcare settings:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056991/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf

For special schools, specialist provisions on mainstream sites and Alternative Provisions:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057037/20220223_SEND_guidance.pdf 2

The main changes relate to Public Health advice for those with Covid 19 and their contacts, asymptomatic testing for school staff and students in secondary schools and the wearing of masks. All contingency measures, including good hygiene practice and good ventilation need to continue. We provided further information on ventilation in schools in last week's Kelsi bulletin, including further information on ventilation and how to use a CO2 monitor and air cleaning monitor and provided a link to the Health and Safety Executive's guidance and a short video:

Contingency Framework:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057141/Contingency_framework_education_and_childcare_settings_February_2022.pdf

Blog: [https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/06/how-good-ventilation-can-help-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19-and-the-omicron-variant-in\[1\]schools-and-what-were-doing-to-help/](https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/06/how-good-ventilation-can-help-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19-and-the-omicron-variant-in[1]schools-and-what-were-doing-to-help/) <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/11/ventilating-classrooms-to-reduce-the-spread-of-covid-19-doesnt-mean-pupils-need-to-be-cold-heres-why/>

Resources:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12cU_I5q0v1_my97yPMpb87RsSL5d5lpj

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/balancing-ventilation-and-keeping-warm.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cgo17M6bBdU> ‘

LFD tests remain free currently and at least until the 1 April and it is recommended that schools still encourage staff and students to take a test if they have symptoms. Those who test positive are still able to access a PCR test and, if positive, are still advised to stay at home and isolate. They can then choose to take a LFD test 5 days after their symptoms first started with another on day 6 in order to be sure they are clear before returning to work or school. Schools may want to strongly encourage staff and students to follow this advice. Contacts of those who do test positive are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests. Contact tracing has also ended.

School staff and secondary age students are no longer required to undertake regular asymptomatic testing **although** this is still recommended for staff and students in Special Schools, Specialist settings and Alternative Provisions.

Schools will want to consider how to manage staff and pupils who may have mild symptoms and who do not wish or cannot test. If a member of staff or a pupil/student has a temperature or persistent cough or is otherwise ill, they should remain at home in the same way that they would if they were ill for any other reason. They should be encouraged to take a test whilst the LFD tests remain free but cannot be required to do so

Updated 24/2/22 documents

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Public reminded to stay safe as COVID-19 England restrictions lift - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)