

COVID-19 Health & Safety

This document has been created taking from the guidance set out by the government and been adapted to meet the needs of Calshot School.

Government Guidance

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for educational settings - GOV.UK](#) for information on health and safety, and *what to do if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst at an educational setting*

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#) - Guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures. **updated 1st June**

[Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#)

The government have produced a [guide for employers](#) on 8th April

Please also see the government guidance on [cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#).

COVID-19 Testing

The government announced on 23rd April that school staff who are showing symptoms of coronavirus will now be able to access free tests.

The government's priority is testing patients to inform their clinical diagnosis. In addition, they are now also testing:

- essential workers with symptoms
- people who live with essential workers and have symptoms

Essential workers definition includes education and childcare workers, including:

- support and teaching staff

- social workers
- specialist education professionals

This means all school staff can find out whether they have the virus, and so that they can return to work if they test negative. Testing is most effective within 3 days of symptoms developing.

Referral can be either self-referral or employer referral, and be through one of the below methods:

- Regional testing sites
- Home testing
- Mobile testing units
- Satellite centres
- NHS facilities

Employer referral: To obtain a login to the employer referral portal, employers of essential workers should contact portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk.

Self-referral: please see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested](#)

If you register for testing but your symptoms are worsening please consider whether it is safe to drive to a testing site. In case of doubt, why not consider asking a member of your household to drive you, or choose the home testing option.

When school opens to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will be eligible for testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

Social Distancing in School

As much as possible, children and staff should be spaced apart at all times. It is understood that this will be difficult especially for young children.

This means:

- sitting children at desks that are far apart
- ensuring everyone who queues are further apart than normal
- keeping apart when in the playground or doing any physical exercise
- visiting the toilet one after the other
- staggering break times
- avoiding unnecessary staff gatherings

Social distancing measures should also be in place when providing meals, or food for collection, from families of free school meal pupils not in school.

Where possible, adults should space out from one another and where possible encourage the children to do so too. Leaving the doors and windows open for fresh air also helps.

The government guidance acknowledges that social distancing will not always be possible with young children, purely because they will not be diligent about practicing it through a lack of understanding. First aid is another reason that exceptions may need to be made with children.

Protective clothing is being provided for staff members to wear if they wish to. Good hand washing and regular cleaning of surfaces is the best approach to take.

The government acknowledge that social distancing for settings with young children will be harder to maintain. Staff should implement the recommended measures as far as they are able, whilst ensuring children are kept safe and well cared for. In school children will be arranged into groups with a maximum of 15 children in them. In their own groups children will be able to mix together, although encouraged to maintain social distancing we will not be able to guarantee this will happen all the time. Teachers and other staff may want to use age and developmentally appropriate ways to encourage children to follow social distancing, hand-

washing and other guidance, including through games, songs and stories. They should encourage parents/carers to reinforce these messages at home, by asking them to remind their children.

As much as possible, school will seek to prevent the sharing of food, drink, utensils, equipment and toys. Equipment, toys and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.

An assessment from the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher may need to be undertaken, if it is deemed that a child may not be able to follow social distancing instructions, to determine what mitigations need to be put in place and whether, in rare circumstances, they should stay at home.

Personal Protective Equipment

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended however in Calshot School it has been decided that staff may wear it if it reduces their anxiety.

Government advice is that PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

Public Health advise that good hand washing and respiratory hygiene is the most effective way of reducing the spread of infection:

- washing your hands more often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser when you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, eat or handle food
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

The advice for schools, colleges and childcare settings is to follow steps on social distancing, handwashing and other hygiene measures, and cleaning of surfaces.

Government guidance can be found here [Guidance to educational settings about Covid 19](#)

Staff supporting pupils with SEND

Some children, and young people with special educational needs, may be unable to follow social distancing guidelines, or require personal care support. In these circumstances, staff need to increase their level of self-protection, such as minimising close contact (where appropriate), cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and carrying out more frequent handwashing.

Cleaning

We follow the Public Health England (PHE) guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings.

Settings should clean and disinfect equipment, toys and surfaces more regularly. This includes keyboards, mouse, tables, chairs, door handles, light switches and bannisters.

Deep cleaning

Deep cleaning is not necessary on an ongoing basis. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual, using your standard cleaning products.

Handwashing

Staff, children, young people and families should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal, including on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.

Staff should supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water (or hand sanitiser if soap is not available or feasible in the particular situation) and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues.

Consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.

Some children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities may require additional support in following public health advice, or may find frequent handwashing distressing. Staff will know where this is likely to be the case, and how they can best support individual children and young people.

Wearing Jewellery

It is fine to wear jewellery as normal, provided handwashing guidance is being followed.

Staff/Pupils - Showing Symptoms and Confirmed Cases

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in school, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, 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.

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. 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.

Reporting of confirmed cases

RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) and COVID-19

If an employee has been diagnosed as having COVID-19 and there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure to work; there is a requirement under RIDDOR to report it to the Health and Safety Executive as a reportable disease.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have published guidance to employers on the reporting of work related COVID cases see below.

[Health and Safety Executive- COVID-19 RIDDOR Reporting](#)