

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Public Health colleagues and I would like to take this opportunity to fully clarify what should happen if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within your setting, as per Government guidance.

## 1. Suspected cases:

Any child/staff experiencing any of the following

- High temperature
- New continuous cough (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- Loss / change in smell or taste.

Will be **sent home immediately**, asked to get tested, and start 10 day self-isolation. Household members should start isolating for 14 days - this is because it can take 14 days for symptoms of the virus to appear.

If a child does not get tested, we would still expect them to self-isolate for 10 days if they have been symptomatic. If the child does receive a test, and it is negative, the child and household can stop self-isolation and the child can return to the setting immediately.

The child's bubble can continue going to a setting during this time, and should only be sent home if there is a positive test result from someone within their bubble/group.

Siblings of a confirmed case must quarantine for 14 days but this does not affect their bubble/group. Siblings of a suspected case can continue to attend a school/setting unless they themselves feel unwell or display symptoms.

## 2. Confirmed cases

If a child has been confirmed positive, the 'bubble/group' which that child was in, will need to start self-isolation for 14 days. 'Close contacts' of the child/staff would also need to start self-isolation for 14 days. A close contact is:

- Household contacts: overnight contacts/ people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive
- Face-to-face contacts: Having been within 1 metre of someone who has tested positive, including: being coughed on, having a face-to-face conversation, or having skin-to-skin physical contact, or any contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact (unless a person was protected by PPE)
- A person who has been between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes from someone who has tested positive (unless a person was protected by PPE)

- A person who has travelled in a small vehicle or on a plane near someone who has tested positive

A test should only be booked by staff/children in the bubble if symptoms appear. Children/staff can return to the setting after 14 days should no symptoms have appeared. Households, where children in bubbles are being sent home to self-isolate, do not need to start 14 day self-isolation (unless they themselves start getting symptomatic of COVID). In essence, you only need to start self-isolation if you have been in a bubble, close contact, or tested positive.

If the setting is notified of a confirmed case, the recommended actions will be carried out by following the latest guidelines and advise for the DFE.