



Guidance for Implementing Protective Measures In Education and Childcare Settings as set out by the Dept of Education

What the latest science tells us

This approach is underpinned by the DoE 's latest understanding of the science, which indicates that we need to take a phased approach to limit the risk of increasing the rate of transmission (often referred to as R) above 1. They have factored in:

- severity of disease in children – there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus
- the age of children – there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus
- numbers of children going back – which needs to be limited initially then increased gradually as the science permits
- systems to reduce the size of the groups coming into contact with each other – such as smaller class sizes spread out across settings

We want to get all children and young people back into education as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know how important it is for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers, carers and teachers. Children returning to educational and childcare settings in greater numbers will also allow more families to return to work.

Effective infection protection and control

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.



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In Kidz Kabin settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions have been employed to do this. These are seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend nursery.
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Posters are on the nursery walls to remind everyone.
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces using a trigger spray with sanitising solution
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)
- Barrier forming will be done each evening. This involves spraying frequently used surfaces and touch points with a sanitising solution which is left to dry. The non-toxic chemicals which are safe for children will then break down any bacteria and prevent it transferring to the surface.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with



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people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings including nurseries. Along with schools, childcare settings do not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Most staff in education and nursery settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 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, such as nappy changing and helping children with toileting.
- if a child, becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in nursery 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



Shielded and clinically vulnerable children and young people

For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been [classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending nursery and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category

Class or group sizes

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, this has been considered. Kidz Kabin nurseries will therefore follow the measures below.

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of



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transmission will be lowered. Please refer to Kidz Kabin policy and procedures in dealing with suspected symptoms in children and adults.

The advice is that where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so. While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk.

For pre-school children in early years settings, the staff to child ratios within [Early Years Foundation Stage](#) (EYFS) continue to apply.

Implementing protective measures at nurseries before wider opening on 1 June **Planning and organising**

Kidz Kabin will be considering the following steps:

- Risk assessments and other health and safety advice for children, young people and staff have been reviewed considering recent government advice, identifying protective measures (such as the things listed below). Health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening on 1st June.
- Kidz Kabin will organise small groups of children, and they will be separated into “bubbles” as far as possible, during play
- Rooms have been organised to remove those items which are more difficult to clean on a regular basis. This includes, rugs, carpets, soft toys, dressing up clothes, cushions although this list is not exclusive. Water cups will be placed out of reach so children do not contaminate them by picking up or using another child’s
- Kidz Kabin have refreshed the timetable:
 - By deciding which lessons or activities will be delivered in consideration of best practice at this time. Playdough may be made each day and children will be given their own playdough, after which it will be disposed of.
 - Considering which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors



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- Children and staff will reduce their movements around the building by using only their own indoor nursery rooms and their own outdoor play spaces
- stagger break times (including lunch), so that all children are not moving around the nursery at the same time
- stagger drop-off and collection times so that some parents will bring children at 8 am, 9 am or for the afternoon sessions
- Parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols are in place to minimise adult to adult contact. Social distancing ground markers will be in place in each setting from 1st June to ensure parents can maintain a safe distance from each other.
- in addition, we will:
 - keep small groups of children together throughout the day and avoid larger groups of children mixing.
 - consider how play equipment is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously
- remove unnecessary items from classrooms and other learning environments where there is space to store it elsewhere
- remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)

Communicating Our plans

We will:

- tell children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to enter the buildings if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (following the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#))
- tell parents that if their child needs to be accompanied to the education or childcare setting, only one parent should attend.
- make clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, but must instead queue outside the nursery buildings and follow the social distancing arrangements in place



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- recommend that parents and carers, staff and other visitors avoid using public transport and make other arrangements to travel to and from the nurseries.
- Provide training for staff in cleaning procedures
- communicate with contractors and suppliers prepare to support our plans for opening for example, cleaning, catering, food supplies, hygiene suppliers
- discuss with cleaning contractors or staff the additional cleaning requirements and agree additional hours to allow for this

When open

Kidz Kabin will keep cohorts together where possible and:

- ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days
- ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days.
- ensure that wherever possible children and young people use the same classroom or area throughout the day, with a thorough cleaning of the rooms at the end of the day.

For cleaning and hygiene we will:

- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal
- ensure that all adults and children:
 - frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. Review the [guidance on hand cleaning](#)



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- clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, ensure all spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
- There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting

Reduce mixing within setting by:

- accessing rooms directly from outside where possible
- staggering transitions to ensure that any corridors or circulation routes used have a limited number of children using them at any time
- ensuring that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time
- noting that some children and young people will need additional support to follow these measures (for example, routes round school marked in braille or with other meaningful symbols, and social stories to support them in understanding how to follow rules)

Use outside space:

- for exercise and breaks
- for outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff
- although outdoor equipment should not be used unless the setting is able to ensure that it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children and young people using it, and that multiple groups do not



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- use it simultaneously. We are following the guidance set out in [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#)

We will reduce the use of shared resources:

- by not allowing shared resources to be taken home
- by not allowing children to bring soft toys or resources into the setting
- by seeking to prevent the sharing of stationery and other equipment where possible. Shared materials and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected more frequently
- practical lessons can go ahead if equipment can be cleaned thoroughly and the classroom or other learning environment is occupied by the same children.

Travel Arrangements

- The mini- bus will not be used for external outings until further notice.
- Parents and children should walk or cycle to their nursery where possible
- Parents and young people should follow the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#) when planning their travel

What happens if someone becomes unwell at Nursery

- If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), 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 should 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



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- 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 with symptoms, 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. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

- 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.



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- Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
- Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within the 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, 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 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.

Should educational settings ask parents to report pupils' temperatures at the start of each day?

- Parents, carers and settings do not need to take children's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus. Parents need to follow the standard national advice on the kind of symptoms to look out for that might be due to coronavirus, and understand where to get further advice. If anyone in the household develops a fever, or a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they are advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#) (which states that the ill person should remain in isolation for 7 days and the rest of the household in isolation for 14 days).

Will children and young people be eligible for testing?



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- When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to 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. Parents will have a number of routes to access testing for them and their children. Visit the [guidance on coronavirus testing and how to arrange to have a test](#).

- **Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?**

- Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social

work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. See the [full list of essential workers](#).

Education settings as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.