

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into the centre if they have symptoms or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example they are required to quarantine or have a positive test).

If anyone attending the centre develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home immediately and should follow public health advice. For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. If a child is awaiting collection, they should be kept in a ventilated location, away from other children and staff if possible and safe to do so. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Any areas they have been or used must be thoroughly cleaned after use.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Staff and families should follow current government guidance on testing, isolation and tracing at all times. Please use this link: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect>

In the event that a member of staff or attending child tests positive for COVID-19, NHS Test and Protect will work with the positive case to identify close contacts - Explore Learning will support NHS Test, Trace and Protect with this process upon their request.

Explore Learning management are required to report any positive case within staff and members via the Bubble. This allows us to monitor case numbers and monitor if thresholds are reached to report to public health.

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Stepping measures up and down

Explore Learning will issue revised outbreak management guidance to centres if local restrictions are reintroduced, or we are aware of a spike in infections within a local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education and childcare can have on children and young people, any measures in out-of-school settings should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Safeguarding

Staff recognise that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children and they may be at increased risk of harm or abuse. Staff will ensure relevant training is up to date and the team are supported by a Designated Safeguarding Officer at all times to respond appropriately to child welfare concerns.

Staff also recognise that some children may have found the long period at home hard to manage and / or developed anxieties related to the virus, and will provide opportunities for children and their families to talk about their experiences over the last few months and direct to support and advice where appropriate.

Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups

There is emerging evidence that black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) individuals may be more severely affected than the general population by coronavirus (COVID-19). Explore staff will be especially sensitive to the needs and worries of BAME children and young people, parents and carers, and staff, and will consider if any additional measures or reasonable adjustments may need to be put in place to mitigate risk.

Control Measures

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. All children and staff must wash their hands/use hand sanitiser upon arrival at the centre and after sneezing or coughing. Staff must always wash/sanitise their hands before and after eating, including on return from any rest breaks. Staff will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly regularly throughout the day. **Respiratory hygiene**

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. Centres display posters remind all staff and children to build awareness. Disposable tissues, hand sanitiser and a lined bin will be available in every zone. All waste will be disposed of in a safe and hygienic manner. Staff will empty bins at the end of every day.

2. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, additional PPE is only required if an individual child, young person or student becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

The guidance on the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID19.

3. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes (inc. use of water fountain)

Cleaning of zones (including desks/keyboards/screens/headphones/mice), reception and toilets will happen between use.

The water fountain remains out of use until further notice. Staff are able to use the fountain to refill water bottles providing it is wiped after use.

Communal areas like the reception desk and office, touch points such as light switches, stair handrails, lift buttons, door handles and handwashing facilities will be cleaned and sanitised regularly throughout the day. Staff are provided with cleaning guidelines according to [cleaning guidance for non-healthcare settings](#). Centres are visited weekly by external cleaning company GCC.

4. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Centres will have the ventilation system (bringing in outdoor air) on continuously when occupied (turns on and off with our last-man-out switch). Toilet ventilation will stay on continuously when occupied.

The air con system will be set on an 'Auto' setting to ensure limited touch point of the control panel and temperature is kept consistent in the centre. The Air con system will be turned off at night to aid the system to reset, but to be turned back on when a member of staff first opens up the centre each day.

For centres in shopping centres, most ventilation & air conditioning systems do not need adjustment, however advice should be sought from Shopping Centre Management to check that the above systems are in place.

5. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Asymptomatic Testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within settings.

Staff and secondary age children should continue to test regularly using lateral flow tests if they are attending Explore Learning centres. The recommended time frame for testing is twice per week.

Staff and secondary age children can collect home test kits either from their local pharmacy or by ordering online. There is no need for primary age children (those in year 6 and below) to test.

Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and children with a positive lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the lateral flow test and the child or staff member can return to centre providing they do not have symptoms.