



23rd August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Updated Public Health Advice on Self-Isolation, Contact Tracing and Covid Testing for Schools / ELCs

The Scottish Government has issued revised COVID guidance for schools and early learning centres (ELCs). Most of the previous protocols and arrangements to reduce the risk of infection remain in place, with minor modifications for the first six weeks of the term.

Key changes include **updated Public Health advice** on self-isolation, contact tracing and testing.

- **In general, whole classes/groupings of children and young people will no longer be advised to self-isolate if an individual in that class/group has tested positive for COVID-19.**
- NHS Test and Protect teams will now directly inform you (parents/carers) if your child is a close contact.
- Schools/ELCs will issue 'warn and inform' letters to notify parents/carers if positive cases are identified within your child's setting.

See FAQs for clarification:

What should I do if my child develops symptoms?

Children and young people who develop symptoms **must not attend** school/ELC. They must **self-isolate immediately**. Book a PCR test for your child and **all** household members. Your child can only return to school/ELC if **a negative** PCR result is received, and your child is no longer displaying symptoms of COVID.

What should I do if my child tests positive using a LFD?

Children and young people **must not attend** school/ELC. The result of the LFT should be recorded online and a PCR test should be booked. Please **inform your child's school/ELC** if your child tests positive.

What should I do if my child tests positive using a PCR test?

Children and young people **must not attend** school/ELC and should follow the self-isolation guidance. Please **inform your child's school/ELC** if your child tests positive and the date when self-isolation ends.

If I, as parent/carer test positive for COVID, can my child(ren) attend school/ELC?

No, in line with Public Health advice, all household members should **self-isolate immediately** and **book a PCR test**. Your child(ren) can only return to school/ELC if the PCR test result is **negative AND they are not displaying symptoms** of COVID. Children under five are exempt from testing and can attend school/ELC as long as they do not have symptoms.

What will happen if my child displays COVID symptoms whilst in school/ELC?

Parents/carers of children and young people who develop symptoms in schools/ELCs will be contacted and asked to collect their child along with all school aged siblings. They must **self-isolate immediately** and **book a PCR test**. Children under five are exempt from this unless symptomatic.

Which Close Contacts will Test and Protect contact?

Only those close contacts aged under 18 who are at the **highest risk** of being exposed to infection will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Protect. This **high risk** group includes household contacts, overnight (sleepover) contact, or other clear, prolonged close contact.

What should I do if my child is identified as a Close Contact by NHS Test and Protect?

Current Public Health advice for children and young people (0-17), if identified by NHS Test and Protect as close contacts is:

1. **Book a PCR test** and **self-isolate** until the result has been received.
2. If the COVID PCR test result is **positive your child must continue to self-isolate**.
3. If the COVID PCR test result is **negative and your child remains without symptoms** you can end self-isolation and your child/ren can return to school/ELC (even when your child continues to live in the same household or have continued contact with the COVID positive case).
4. If your child has a negative PCR test following identification as a close contact, then those in secondary education should continue to test twice weekly using LFDs available from their school.
5. If your child has a negative PCR test following identification as a close contact, parents of primary pupils may wish to encourage their children to test twice weekly using the universal testing program.
6. If your child has had a positive PCR test within the last 90 days and is not displaying symptoms, it is not necessary to undertake an additional PCR test and you child can return to school.
7. Children under five who are identified as close contacts will be encouraged, but not required, to take a PCR test before they resume daily life, including return to ELC and school.

We continue to work in partnership with NHS Public Health to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of all our children, young people and staff in our establishments is prioritised.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Quinn
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