

Please see below extracts from the UK Government's "Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic" updated 6th January 2022. We hope the information below will clarify the information contained in our **Daily Operating Procedures/Policies for the Nurseries during the pandemic – January 2022**

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

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 setting if they have [symptoms of coronavirus](#) 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).

If anyone in your setting develops [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID 19\)](#) however mild, you should send them home and they 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, appropriate PPE should be used if close contact is necessary. If safe to do so, a window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

The household (including any siblings) should follow UKHSA's [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Children and staff should return to the setting as soon as self-isolation rules allow.

Asymptomatic testing

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

Staff should continue to test twice weekly at home, with rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.

Early years children are not included in the rapid testing programme for regular asymptomatic testing. UKHSA has advised there are limited public health benefits attached to regular testing of early years children with rapid lateral flow coronavirus (COVID-19) tests [rapid lateral flow tests](#). Young children may find the rapid lateral flow testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

Confirmatory PCR tests

You should follow the latest government guidance on confirmatory PCR tests following a positive rapid lateral flow (LFD) test.”

“Tracing close contacts and self-isolation

Close contacts in early years settings are now being identified by [NHS Test and Trace](#) and education and childcare settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts and/or their parent or carer to identify close contacts. Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent or carer specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years who are identified as close contacts are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. They are advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their household.

Further information is available in:

- [NHS Test and Trace: what to do if you are contacted](#)
- [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

18-year-olds are treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases 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.”