



GUIDANCE

Coronavirus (COVID-19): educational settings guidance (version 4)

Guidance for schools and other educational settings in providing advice about the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Last updated 17 March 2020.

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What you need to know

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. However, high risk groups should follow the [guidance on social distancing](https://gov.wales/coronavirus-social-distancing-guidance) (<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-social-distancing-guidance>).
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home.
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products.
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues.
- posters and lesson plans on general hand hygiene can be found on the [eBug website](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools) (<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>) – please see the ‘additional information’ section at the end of this document.

Background

This guidance will assist staff in addressing coronavirus (COVID-19) in educational settings. This includes childcare, schools, further and higher educational institutions.

This guidance may be updated in line with the changing situation.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.

What to do if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) on site

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education setting they should be sent home and advised to follow the [staying at home guidance](https://gov.wales/stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus). (<https://gov.wales/stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus>)

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Ideally, a window should be opened 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.

If they need clinical advice, they (or their teacher, parent or guardian) should go online to [111 Wales](https://www.nhs.uk/111)

([https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/SelfAssessments/symptomcheckers/?](https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/SelfAssessments/symptomcheckers/?ScName=CoronaVirusCOVID19&SCTId=175)

[ScName=CoronaVirusCOVID19&SCTId=175](https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/SelfAssessments/symptomcheckers/?ScName=CoronaVirusCOVID19&SCTId=175)) (or call 111 if they don't have internet access). 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 who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

If there is an urgent public health action to take, the educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health Wales [Health Protection Team](https://phw.nhs.uk/health-protection/health-protection-team/) (<https://phw.nhs.uk/services-and-teams/health-protection/health-protection-team/>) who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken.

Limiting spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in educational settings

Education settings can help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by reminding everyone of the public health advice.

Staff, children, pupils, students and families should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal.

Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products. [Posters, leaflets and other materials](https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-resources/) (<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-resources/>) are available.

Cleaning and waste

See guidance on [cleaning and waste disposal](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>).

Tools for use in childcare and educational settings

PHW has [resource materials](https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-resources/) (<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-resources/>) that contain public health advice about how you can help stop the spread of viruses, like those that cause coronavirus (COVID-19), by practising good respiratory and hand hygiene.

Additional resources

Use [e-Bug](https://e-bug.eu/) (<https://e-bug.eu/>) resources recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to teach students of all ages about hygiene. Key sections that may be useful are:

KS1: Horrid Hands and Super Sneezes

[Horrid Hands](https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack_ks1.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Horrid%20Hands) (https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack_ks1.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Horrid%20Hands)

[Super Sneezes](https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack_ks1.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Super%20Sneezes) (https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack_ks1.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Super%20Sneezes)

KS2: Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Hygiene

[Hand Hygiene](https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Hand%20Hygiene) (https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Hand%20Hygiene)

[Respiratory Hygiene](https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Respiratory%20Hygiene) (https://e-bug.eu/junior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=2&t=Respiratory%20Hygiene)

KS3: Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Hygiene

[Hand Hygiene](https://e-bug.eu/senior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=3&t=Senior%20Schools-Hand%20Hygiene) (https://e-bug.eu/senior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=3&t=Senior%20Schools-Hand%20Hygiene)

[Respiratory Hygiene](https://e-bug.eu/senior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=3&t=Senior%20Schools-Respiratory%20Hygiene) (https://e-bug.eu/senior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=3&t=Senior%20Schools-Respiratory%20Hygiene)

Distance learning on Hwb

Maintained schools can use [distance learning tools on Hwb](https://hwb.gov.wales/distance-learning) (https://hwb.gov.wales/distance-learning), these include:

- virtual classrooms
- video conferencing

These tools will allow teachers and learners with suitable internet connected devices to continue their classroom activities outside of school as required.

School and other educational trips

[Travel guidance for education settings and students](https://gov.wales/coronavirus-travel-guidance-education-settings-and-students)

(https://gov.wales/coronavirus-travel-guidance-education-settings-and-students).

Queries

Please email Covid19Education@gov.wales (mailto:Covid19Education@gov.wales) for any questions not covered on this page.

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