

Education Webinar

Autumn Term

September 2021

Introduction

Lucy Dennis - Senior Public Health Practitioner - Public Health Team Hampshire and IOW

Claire Cullum - Senior Public Health Practitioner - Health Protection Team Hampshire and IOW

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Agenda

- Infection, prevention and control measures
- Asymptomatic LFD Testing
- Risk assessment
- New DfE guidance
- Vaccination
- Communications
- Guidance

Infection, Prevention and Control

Public Health

Hampshire County Council & Isle of Wight Council

Control Measures

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone – Washing hands – Respiratory hygiene
- All settings should continue their strong messaging about signs and symptoms, isolation advice and testing, to support prompt isolation of any positive cases
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of any positive cases
- Face coverings- discretionary except on public/designated transport

Asymptomatic Testing

Asymptomatic Testing

For primary / early years setting information below is relevant for staff only

- All secondary school pupils and college students should receive **2 on-site lateral flow device tests**, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.
- Following the two initial on-site tests, students will be able to collect their home test kits and continue **twice weekly testing at home** until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.
- The approach to regular asymptomatic testing in education and care settings will be **reviewed at the end of September**.
- NHS Test and Trace plan to introduce **new lateral flow devices** (educational settings will receive Innova, Orient Gene or Acon Flowflex) to make testing quicker, easier and more accessible.
 - Orient Gene and Acon Flowflex self-test kits both require nasal only swabs
- Saliva testing – Settings can choose to be part of this programme which is run by the Southampton University. For further information please contact Brian Pope

Risk Assessment

All risk assessments should be kept as a live document

Purpose - Mitigating risk of transmission from within the setting (Covid-19 and other seasonal illness – impact of reduced social contact during lockdown)

Key points to be included:

- Ventilation - Identify any poorly ventilated spaces and steps to improve fresh air flow. CO2 sensors – more info to follow
- Communication with staff / visitors / students / parents to reinforce measures
- Demonstrate measures for staff / students who are clinically extremely vulnerable- For example the use of additional PPE
- The requirement to undertake a risk assessment for pregnant women has not changed. Employers are still required to carry out a risk assessment whether an employee has been vaccinated or not.
- Include community use of your facilities
- Safeguarding implications – such as in the event of DSL requiring to self-isolate
- Staff and student wellbeing, stress or anxiety regarding COVID 19



Contingency framework: education and childcare settings

August 2021

DfE Guidance

Principles guiding management of COVID-19 in settings from autumn are to protect time in face-to-face education, minimise disruption and ensure the response to COVID-19 is proportionate to risk.

Changes to be aware of

- Positive PCR Cases and their contacts will be followed up by NHS Test and Trace. HT still required to communicate close contacts of employees to test and trace team but not children.
- From 16th August contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in England aged under 18 years and 6 months and / or those fully vaccinated are exempt from the legal duty to self isolate. All individuals with a positive PCR still need to isolate
- The thresholds in the guidance can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned by using the DfE helpline – new PHE flow chart
- All settings should seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19.
- Those under 18yrs and 6 months, irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if positive, will need to isolate.
- If identified as a close contact, under 5's will not be asked to undertake a PCR test, unless they are symptomatic
- Masks are no longer recommended in education and childcare settings. However, they are recommended on dedicated school or college transport in line with government expectation to wear face coverings in crowded areas when prevalence is high.

Thresholds

- Context is important but, as a guide, for most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:
 - 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
 - 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
 - For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:
 - 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Cases identified in the test-on-return period should not trigger extra measures or escalation to the DfE helpline/HPT

Settings may wish to seek additional public health advice if they are concerned about transmission in the setting by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1)

At the point of reaching a threshold

Make sure your contingency plans cover the proportionate steps that you might take if you reach a threshold.

At the point of reaching a threshold, education and childcare settings should review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place and whether any or the following is appropriate:

- **Whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes**
- **Ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort**
- **One-off enhanced cleaning focusing on touch points and any shared equipment**

You may also be advised by public health to introduce one or more of the following measures.

- Limits to residential educational visits, open days, transition or taster days, parental attendance and/or live performances in settings
- Increased use of testing by staff and, where they are already being offered testing, for pupils/students
- face coverings temporarily worn in secondary settings
- Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government but settings should make sure their contingency plans cover this possibility.
- **High quality face-to-face education remains a government priority. Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort**

Contingency for children attending school if parent/carer required to self-isolate

- Encourage families to consider how they could get their children to school in the event of the parent/carer needing to self isolate. This may involve family and friends
- Parent/carer to liaise with the school if the issue arises
- School to potentially offer a solution if they have transport available (costs reimbursed via the Practical Support Grant)
- If school cannot support, school to offer paid mileage as an incentive for family/friends that are able to help (reimbursed via the Practical Support Grant)
- If all of the above options have been exhausted, and the issue remains, school to make a referral to the Home to School Transport team

Vaccination

Covid Vaccine Programme

- Those at greatest risk from Covid infection are those aged 50 and over and those with medical conditions that increase the chance of serious consequences.
- The serious consequences of Covid – hospital admissions and death have decreased significantly largely due to the Covid vaccination programme – so far it is estimated that 100,000 lives have been saved by the vaccination.
- Initially aim was to save lives and then to reduce transmission

Covid infection

- There are over 32,000 reported Covid cases per day recorded.
- The majority of people testing positive for Covid – are in the age group 12 – 29 year olds.
- Long Covid – will affect 1 in 50 children – ZOE Covid study – symptoms lasting 8 weeks or more.

Plan to Vaccinate Children Aged 12 – 17

- Currently we have vaccinated:

- Children aged 12 – 15 who have conditions that put them at higher risk from Covid
 - Down's Syndrome, profound learning difficulties, Immunosuppressed
- People aged 16 and 17
 - Now been offered to all in this group target is to have immunised 75% by 3rd September
- Proposal to offer vaccination to all children aged 12- 15 – who are fit and well
- This is already happening – USA, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Germany

Reason to Consider Vaccination in the 12-15 year olds

- To reduce risk transmission to the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of infection and therefore isolation
- Reduce risk of long Covid

Vaccination

- Vaccination remains strongly encouraged for all eligible adults, children and young people.
- For 16 and 17 year olds have now been offered one Covid-19 vaccine. This can be accessed via Primary Care Network GP led clinics or at one of three vaccination centres.
- 18- year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated.
- CYP aged 12 – 15 who are extremely clinically vulnerable - will be identified and called by the GP .
- Continue to encourage staff to have their covid vaccination and flu/booster if eligible. Expecting Flu to be 50% more than average year (due to low levels last year) also to come earlier – hands face and space reduced flu as well as covid.
- Vaccination does not prevent people contracting and transmitting Covid-19 it does reduce Covid vaccination provides 95% protection – once vaccinated much less likely to catch Covid, or get serious complications including hospitalisation or death. People being admitted to hospital with Cover mainly young people and those not vaccinated – including pregnant women.

Access to vaccinations

- Anyone aged over the age of 16 can now access their COVID vaccination at walk-in centres across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. You don't need to book. Young people don't need to be accompanied by an adult or have permission from an adult if they are aged 16 or 17
- Many practices have invited all children aged 16 and 17 to be vaccinated
- The following vaccination centres are open every day (including weekends) from 0800am to 1930pm for walk in appointments:
- **St James' Hospital Portsmouth, Locksway Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth, Southsea, PO4 8LD**
- **Southampton Oakley Road vaccination centre, Oakley Road, Millbrook, Southampton, SO16 4GX**
- **Basingstoke Fire Station, W Ham Cl, Basingstoke, RG22 6PH** (until 10th September 2021)
- **Jameson House, Chineham Court, Lutyens Cl, Lychpit, Basingstoke RG24 8AG.** (from 13th September 2021)
- **For the Isle of Wight – Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport PO30 2QR** (please check link below for times)
- As well as the vaccination centres we are also running several pop-up vaccination clinics.
Please access this link for up-to-date information about where and when these are operating
- <https://hampshiresouthamptonandisleofwightccg.nhs.uk/your-health/latest-information-on-covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-programme/walk-in-clinics-near-you.>

Communications

Notification strategy (Early Years Settings)

- We no longer need you to let us know in the event of you being informed of a single case or cases below threshold. We do, however, continue to be happy to be contacted to talk things through with you as and when needed.
- In the event that positive cases in your setting meet the thresholds in the government guidance, we ask that you contact both Public Health, in line with the guidance, and your Early Years' Team.
- Primarily, this is to ensure you have the help, advice and support you need to deal with the issues but also to enable us to inform key people within the local authority and community, as appropriate.

Contacts

Hampshire Early Years Team

Form for reporting cases: [Services for Young Children - Covid 19 Case Reporting Form](#)

Email: childcare@hants.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Early Years Team

Email: eyat@iow.gov.uk

Notification strategy (Schools)

- We no longer need you to let us know in the event of you being informed of a single case or cases below threshold. We do, however, continue to be happy to be contacted to talk things through with you as and when needed.
- In the event that positive cases in your school meet the thresholds in the government guidance, we ask that you contact both Public Health, in line with the guidance, and your School Improvement Manager.
- Primarily, this is to ensure you have the help, advice and support you need to deal with the issues but also to enable us to inform key people within the local authority and community, as appropriate.

Contacts

Special Schools, PRU and Independent Schools

karen.1.nye@hants.gov.uk (CEM)
naomi.carter@hants.gov.uk (SIM Special Schools)

Secondary Schools

Natalie.smith2@hants.gov.uk (CEM)
jean.thorpe@hants.gov.uk (SIM)

Primary Schools

eric.halton@hants.gov.uk (CEM)

+ district primary SIM/ IOW SIM and linked LLP
jenny.burn@hants.gov.uk (SIM)

Hampshire Local Authority Public Health team

hcc.healthprotection@hants.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Local Authority Public Health team

publichealth@iow.gov.uk

Notification strategy (Post 16 Further Education and Training)

- We no longer need you to let us know in the event of you being informed of a single case or cases below threshold. We do, however, continue to be happy to be contacted to talk things through with you as and when needed.
- In the event that positive cases in your setting meet the thresholds in the government guidance, we ask that you contact both Public Health, in line with the guidance, and the LA using the contacts listed.
- Primarily, this is to ensure you have the help, advice and support you need to deal with the issues but also to enable us to inform key people within the local authority and community, as appropriate.

Contacts

CEM Skills and Participation
Phillip.Walker@hants.gov.uk

IOW college and providers
School Improvement Manager
natalie.smith2@hants.gov.uk

Hampshire Local Authority
Public Health team
hcc.healthprotection@hants.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Local Authority
Public Health team
publichealth@iow.gov.uk

Media Enquiries

- If you have an outbreak (confirmed with PH), first and foremost, 'Don't Panic' - there is a network of Local Authority professionals to support you
- Brief staff who answer telephones to take the name and contact details for journalist (inc. an email address) and to note the questions being asked and pass the enquiry to you, as the education/setting leader
- Once you have received the information about the enquiry, contact the Hampshire County or Isle of Wight Council Corporate Communication team who will support you with an appropriate response.
- If pressed for more details, you should inform the journalist that you are not able to share the details of cases because this is confidential information - take care to not disclose unnecessary or sensitive details

Corporate Communications Contacts

- Hampshire educational settings – corporate.communications@hants.gov.uk Tel. 0370 779 5404
(Please be aware that there may be a charge for support given to settings which are not Hampshire County Council maintained settings)
- Isle of Wight educational settings – media@iow.gov.uk Tel. 01983 823793
- Academies' Communications Leads are asked to liaise with relevant Hampshire County or Isle of Wight Council Corporate Communication teams before external communications e.g. media, parent letters are issued.

Please note that the Corporate Communications Team at Hampshire County Council does not operate a 365/24/7 service. Out of hours communications support is restricted to emergency situations only.

At the Isle of Wight Council, the Media Team will monitor its in-box out of hours and respond as required.

Guidance

- [**Contingency framework : education and child- care settings**](#)
- [**Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed Covid-19**](#)
- [**Pregnancy and coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)**](#)
- [**Combined info sheet and decision aid 17.08.2021 \(rcog.org.uk\)**](#)
- [**Coronavirus infection and pregnancy \(rcog.org.uk\)**](#)
- [**Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice for pregnant employees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)**](#)
- [**https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings)
- [**Early years setting**](#)
- [**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures)
- [**Primary and Secondary**](#)
- [**Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)**](#)
- [**Further Education**](#)
- [**Further and higher education: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)**](#)

Guidance (continued)

- [SEND](#)
- [Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Guidance on protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Out of School Settings](#)
- [Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [General Education Guidance for parents](#)
- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Out of School Setting parental guidance](#)
- [Out-of-school settings: COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform.](#)
- [NHS Test and trace workplace guidance](#)

Where to find Local Information

Information Hub on sharepoint (being refreshed) contains Covid specific advice and guidance from various services including, but not limited to:

- Legal Services
- Education Personnel Services
- Health and Safety
- Education Financial Services
- Education Psychology

Did the positive child/staff member attend school during the infectious period: 2 days before symptom onset (or test date if asymptomatic) to 10 days after?

NO – no further action required by setting beyond supporting children as necessary during self-isolation

YES – setting carries out an on-site risk assessment using checklist, refer to contingency plan and inform LA education team as per local arrangements

- Case should already be isolating at home. They should remain in isolation until 10 days have passed from symptom onset.
- Under 18 years 6 months irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if positive, will need to isolate:

- If you have cases in staff follow the workplace guidance to ensure staff contacts are identified (details opposite)
- Review guidance and contact DfE helpline if further advice is required

Health Protection Team email:
ICC.HIOW@phe.gov.uk

DfE Helpline:
0800 046 8687

If you need advice or support you can access the government educational setting guidance online or contact the DfE helpline.
For staff cases and if you have identified staff close contacts who have not been identified through NHS Test and Trace follow [workplace guidance](#). Employers can register employee close contacts on NHS T&T through the self-isolation hub: 020 3743 6715

If any of the following criteria are met

For special schools, residential/boarding school/holiday camp settings and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:

- 2 or more children, pupil, students and staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period
- For other settings:
 - 10% or more of children, pupils, students or staff (approximately) who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period
 - 5 children, pupil or staff or more who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period

If your educational setting is experiencing interest from the media.

- There have been any admissions to hospital or deaths in your students or staff members due to COVID-19

Review all the control measures undertaken by educational settings

- Review ventilation measures and where practical consider moving activities outside such as exercise/singing
- Regular cleaning and promoting frequent handwashing
- Promoting twice weekly LFD for staff and Secondary and FE students
- Promote vaccination in eligible students and staff
- Ensure staff and students/parents/guardians aware of situation. Ensure warn and inform sent to the affected group
- Contact DfE helpline if you meet this escalation criteria. If you have a hospitalisation, or the situation is escalating and you need specialist advice contact your local HPT, who will advise on further measures such as the ones list below. You should also inform your Local Authority education team about any outbreaks in your setting as per local arrangements.

Additional temporary measures: (which may be suggested by LA/PHE-HPT)

- Reintroduction of face covering – for staff and secondary / FE students
- Increased frequency of LFD testing / onsite ATS reintroduction
- Wider asymptomatic PCR testing

In specific circumstances educational settings may be advised to contact trace and in very extreme circumstances restrict attendance temporarily

Who is a contact?

Direct close contact:
Direct face to face e.g. being coughed on or spoken to contact for any length of time OR within <1metre for over 1 minute
Proximity contact:
<2m for 15 minutes or more (cumulative or consecutive time period)
Travel contact:
Close contact within a vehicle eg shared car journey

Source: PHE SE Education Outbreak Pack version 4



Hampshire
County Council

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COUNCIL

Notification to the LA Education Team is not required in the event of single cases

PHE have produced letter templates for:

- Parents following confirmed covid-19 case/s
- Parents of close contacts of COVID-19 case/s
- Staff or students aged over 18 years 6 months close contacts of COVID-19 in educational settings

Covid Queries Inbox

covid.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

Please use this email address to raise any
COVID-19 queries you may have

Thank you