

COVID-19 Schools Information for Parents and Guardians

Dumfries and Galloway Council has produced this guidance for parents and guardians as a result of updates to guidance from the Scottish Government. Please use this document to help you understand the process that will take place where coronavirus is suspected or confirmed within your household and/or within your child's school community.

Symptoms of coronavirus

The accepted symptoms are:

- a new and continuous cough
- fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater)
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

If your child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus

- Please do not send them to school
- Book a test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- All other household members should stay at home until either the test comes back negative or, if they have a positive result, all household members should stay at home for 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms, even if they don't have symptoms themselves.
- If they develop symptoms within the 14 days, they need to stay at home for 10 days from the day their symptoms started and arrange to be tested. They should do this even if it takes them over the 14-day isolation period.
- Parents should notify the School of a positive test result as soon as possible.

If you or any other member of your household are displaying symptoms of coronavirus

- Please do not send your children to school
- Book a test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- All other household members should stay at home until either the test comes back negative or, if they have a positive result, all household members should stay at home for 14 days from the onset of symptoms, even if they don't have symptoms themselves.
- If anyone develops symptoms within the 14 days, they need to **arrange to be tested**. If their test is POSITIVE they should isolate for ten days, even if it takes them over the original 14-day isolation period.

NOTE:

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID and you do not wish to have them tested:

- Please do not send your children to school
- You should keep your child at home for 10 days
- All other household members should stay at home for 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms, even if they don't have symptoms themselves.
- If they develop symptoms within the 14 days, they need to stay at home for 10 days from the day their symptoms started and arrange to be tested. They should do this even if it takes them over the 14-day isolation period.

If someone else in your child's school tests positive for coronavirus:

If your child has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, the contact tracing team will call you and may ask you to come and collect your child from school and take them home. If this happens outside of school hours the contact tracing team or the school on their behalf will call you and may ask you not to bring your child to school the following day. The team will advise you of the measures that you need to take in these circumstances.

If your child has not been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, but there is a positive case within school, the school will send you a letter giving more information on the situation and advise you of the measures that have been put in place.

Further information on Contact Tracing can be found here -

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-contact-tracing>

Further advice with regards to households with possible coronavirus infection is here -

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection>

If your child is unwell with symptoms other than those relating to COVID-19 as noted above, please treat these as you would in normal circumstances, i.e. if they are well enough to attend school then they should attend (NB advice remains that pupils should not return to school for 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea)

It is important that you encourage your children to adhere to the measures put in place in school to help prevent infection spread.

This guidance is based on the current situation and may change in response to changes in national guidance or to an increased prevalence of Covid-19 within our communities. (Wed 30 Sept 2020)

Core Public Health Measures

Ensuring a positive learning environment for all children and young people, should include measures focused on preventing and responding to infections.

Essential Public Health Measures Include:

- Enhanced hygiene and environmental cleaning arrangements
- Minimising contact with others (groupings, maintaining distancing for your people in secondary schools etc)
- Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary
- A requirement that people who are ill stay home and
- Active engagement with Test and Protect

Scottish Government have updated their guidance on face coverings:



The updated guidance states that face coverings should also be worn in the following circumstances (except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering):

- where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport
- where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated public transport
- where adults and young people in secondary schools (including special schools and independent and grant aided schools) are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain
- secondary pupils when they are out at lunchtimes and are no longer on school premises, must by law wear a face covering in shops and other indoor public places such as restaurants (when not seated), libraries and places of worship

This means that all children and young people who travel to school using school transport or public transport should wear their face covering for the duration of the journey