



Attending early years settings during the Covid-19 pandemic – FAQs for parents, carers and guardians

1. What happens if my child develops symptoms whilst at their early years setting?

If your child develops symptoms while they are at their setting, they will be taken out the room and a parent or guardian will be asked to collect them. They will then need to stay at home, self-isolate and get tested.

2. What happens if a child/teacher/practitioner in my child's early years setting tests positive?

Your child's setting will inform Public Health England and Bristol City Council. They will then advise the setting on any action that is needed based on the latest public health advice.

The advice service will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the child, teacher or practitioner during the period that they were infectious.

All early years settings will send home children who have been in close contact with the child, teacher or practitioner who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with the child, teacher or practitioner when they were infectious.

3. If a child tests positive, why can't I know who it is?

As with all other reasons for absence due to illness, this is confidential information between the family and the setting. The setting is supported by Public Health England to ensure that contact tracing is carried out, and those who are identified as having been in contact with the person who tested positive will be contacted so they can self-isolate.

4. Why can't I get a test for my child even if they don't have symptoms, as this would put my mind at rest?

It is only necessary to get a test if your child has symptoms. This is because a child can test negative if tested too early and it may offer false reassurance in a situation when they may still develop symptoms following contact with someone who was infectious. Contacts of a confirmed case must self-isolate for the full 14 days, even if they receive a negative test result. We must also prioritise tests for those who have symptoms.

5. Do I have to self-isolate if my child has been sent home to self-isolate because they were in contact with someone who had a positive test result?

No. Household members do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child who is self-isolating develops symptoms.

6. Why do my other children in other bubbles at the setting not need to self-isolate?

They don't need to self-isolate because they have not had close contact with the case. Only if your child develops symptoms would other children and adults in the household need to self-isolate because they would then be defined as close contacts.



As settings are careful to keep groups of children separate, possible contacts are usually just the other children in the same bubble. If a confirmed case has had contact with others outside their bubble, they would also be advised to self-isolate.

7. How do you define a 'contact'?

Settings will be provided with additional support from Public Health England and Bristol City Council to identify close contacts. A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 anytime from two days before the person was symptomatic, up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others).

8. How can you ensure that no one else will test positive?

Self-isolation of people with symptoms and people they have been in close contact with is key to reducing risk of other people becoming positive.

9. What is the setting procedure in the event of an outbreak?

All settings in Bristol have an outbreak plan and would work with Public Health England and Bristol City Council to implement that plan in the event of an outbreak.

10. How am I supposed to drop my children off at their setting if I have one at home self-isolating?

Parents, carers and guardians are responsible for ensuring regular attendance and that includes making sure that their children can still get to their setting. This is the same as a sibling being ill under normal circumstances.

In order to ensure that happens, you might need to devise a temporary support plan which might include asking family members, relatives or friends to provide assistance. If you are experiencing issues with getting your children to their setting then you must speak with your child's setting. Settings often have a range of support strategies available and they might be able to signpost you to some temporary assistance or offer a degree of flexibility depending on your individual circumstances.

11. What happens if there is a local lockdown? Does my child attend their setting?

If rates of the disease rise locally, settings may need to prevent some children from attending. Early Years settings will follow Public Health England or the Department of Health and Social Care guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown.