

## ***Procedures if there is a suspected Covid case within a school or early years centre***

### ***Information for parents***

#### **Procedures to reduce the risk of Covid in the school or centre**

There are very clear procedures in place in all schools and centres to reduce the risk of infection from Covid. These include:

- Hand hygiene procedures : with children and staff washing their hands or using hand sanitiser regularly;
- Enhanced cleaning is in place during the day as well as 'Clean as you go' procedures where rooms or equipment are shared by different groups of children;
- Good ventilation and outdoor learning as much as possible;
- Appropriate physical distancing in place, including staggered entry and exits, breaks and lunch times.

#### **We would stress that a child should not attend school or early years centre:**

- **if they have the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) - a new persistent cough, fever, or a loss of sense of smell and /or taste – they should stay at home and parents should arrange for coronavirus testing;** you can do this online at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect> or by calling 0800 028 2816 if you cannot get online.
- **if they are living with someone who has coronavirus symptoms, they should stay at home and follow the relevant advice;**
- **If they have returned ( or come) to Scotland from a country which is not exempt from the UK quarantine rules, they should stay at home following the relevant guidance.**

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell; there will be times when children get a cold or a virus, they should stay at home until they are well and not attend school.

If your child is absent, please inform the school in the usual way as soon as possible.

#### **Procedures if there is a suspected Covid case within the school or centre**

There are clear procedures in place if a child or member of staff displays symptoms when they are at school or the early years centre. They will be taken to a room within the school or centre, which has been designated for this purpose. This isolation room has been equipped with the required Personal Protective Equipment to protect staff. The symptoms are:

- ✓ Fever - a high temperature is feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back, you don't need to measure the temperature. You may feel warm, cold or shivery.
- ✓ A new continuous cough, cough that's lasted for an hour, have had 3 or more episodes of coughing in 24 hours or are coughing more than usual
- ✓ Loss of taste or smell (although unlikely will be able to identify this symptom during school time)

Parents will be contacted and asked to come to the school or centre to collect their child.

The procedures, which are in place, will reduce the risk of transmission of the infection but as an additional precaution the room, where the child or young person was immediately before displaying symptoms, does not need to be vacated but some additional cleaning will be carried out as soon as possible. This will be done by Facilities Management and will include cleaning of the desk or table where the child was sitting.

#### **Test Results**

A child can only return to school after the testing has been carried out and the result is negative or after isolation period is over and feeling well.

The NHS Test and Protect Information Leaflet is available from the school or on the Scottish Government Website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect-information-leaflet-2/pages/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect---leaflet/>

#### **If the test is positive:**

- ✓ You should follow the advice from the Health Protection Team.(HPT)

- ✓ The Health Protection Team will contact the school and the Education authority will work with the Health Protection Team to take the appropriate action.
- ✓ The Health Protection Team will advise regarding contacting parents and any decision regarding a partial or full closure of the school.

**If the test is negative:** the child can return to school if they feel well. This is detailed in the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/test-results/>

### **Support for parents**

We understand that parents will be anxious if there are suspected cases of Covid within the school. We would assure you that there are clear procedures in place. If you have concerns about your child, you should contact the school and arrangements can be put in place for some additional mitigation measures to be put in place.