Process flowchart: suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in school

Scenario 1: Student or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at home

School to advise that staff member or student should:

- not return to school for at least 10 days and should follow guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.
- get tested as soon as symptoms start via the NHS

Scenario 2: Student or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school

They must be sent home and advised to follow the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

If a child is awaiting collection, the school should also follow guidance on implementing proactive measures in education and childcare settings and PPE

Scenario 3: Household member of staff or student develops symptoms of COVID-19

The child or staff member must stay at home and not come to school. The symptomatic household member should get tested and everyone in the household should follow the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

Scenario 4: Staff member or student is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (but does not live in the same household) and has been told to isolate via NHS Test and Trace

The child or staff member must stay at home and not come to school, and should follow guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus who do not live with the person including isolation for 14 days

School to:

- Follow guidance on cleaning
- Inform the local public health team – email CIPHAdmin@islington.gov.uk for ongoing support
- Consider informing parents of students in the relevant 'bubble' that a student or staff member has developed symptoms of COVID-19 (if was at school during the 'infectious period' 48 hours before and whilst symptomatic), but they are not required to self-isolate.
- Ensure stock of PPE in case further symptomatic cases on site
- Await test results (48-72 hours)

Does a child or staff member develop symptoms in the next 14 days?

YES

NO

No further action – after 14 days the student or staff member can return to school

Does the student / staff member test positive or negative for COVID-19?

Tested negative

Consider informing parents of negative test results (if they have already been informed of the symptomatic case)

Staff members or students can return to school if they are well, with no fever for 48 hours*

**If staff member / student has previously been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (and has entered this flowchart via scenario 3 or 4), they still need to complete the 14 day isolation period. They can return to school after 14 days if they are well and have had no fever for 48 hours.*

Tested positive

School to:

- Contact Public Health England London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) on 0300 303 0450
- Inform the local public health team – email CIPHAdmin@islington.gov.uk for ongoing support
- LCRC will provide template letters to parents and staff where necessary

Public Health England will work with the school to:

- Undertake a risk assessment
- Identify and notify close contacts (e.g. students and staff within the relevant 'bubble') of the need to follow guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus who do not live with the person including isolation for 14 days
- Identify any further actions needed

What is a contact?

A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For example, a contact can be:

- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
  - being coughed on
  - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
  - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Any students or staff members who go on to develop symptoms should inform the school as soon as possible and the school should return to the start of this flowchart.

Public Health England will work with the school to implement any further measures.

After 14 days, if children or staff members do not develop symptoms, they can return to school.

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