**Public Health considerations with school phased re-opening from the 1st June 2020**

As everyone is aware, Government information and guidance is being added to and updated rapidly. We have condensed draft Public Health FAQ’s, mainly from 3 key Government documents, and this and the information below is based on or extracted from these.

* [Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020)
* [Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings)
* [covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings)

The Government recognises early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. It describes hierarchy of controls to create a safer system which when implemented help reduce risk of transmission of the virus. These include:

**Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms**

Ensure those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges to avoid spreading infection to others. Display health promotion materials such as [this](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876220/COVID19_Guidance_Education.pdf) from PHE.

**Good hygiene practices - Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene**

Hands should be washed frequently by everyone, for 20 seconds throughout the day. Hands should be cleaned on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.

Supervise hand washing to ensure young children wash their hands properly with soap and water (or hand sanitiser if soap is not available or feasible in the particular situation) and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. Bins for tissues should be emptied throughout the day. Some children, such as those with SEND, may need additional support with hand cleaning and goodrespiratory hygiene practices.

**Minimising contact and mixing - Keeping cohorts together where possible**

* Ensuring children and young people are in the same groups at all times, and groups are not mixed
* Using the same classroom if possible, with thorough cleaning of the room at the end of the day
* Ensuring that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days

Brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk. Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so.

**Regular cleaning of settings**

Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.

**Key public health considerations also include:**

**Health promotion**: Educational settings can help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by reminding everyone of the public health advice, and **Lesson plans on hand hygiene:** Posters and lesson plans on general hand hygiene can be found on the [eBug website](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools) <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

**Knowing what to do:** ifStaff or a child/young person becomes symptomatic on site, including how to be tested. These are in the FAQ’s mentioned earlier in this document.

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