



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

COVID-19 seminar for schools

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PHE West Midlands June 2020

Outline of the presentation

- Coronavirus and the disease caused by COVID-19 infection
- How the disease presents and spreads
- How to stop spread of disease by infection control precautions
- How to prepare and deal with a single case of COVID-19 in a school
- How to manage an outbreak of COVID-19 in a school

Using the information in this presentation responsibly

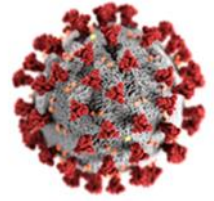
Using the slides

- The information included is correct at the time of recording but as COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation you are strongly advised to access current up to date guidance online as your primary source of reference.
- Underlined text on the slides are hyperlinks – click to go straight to the link
- Slides can be shared within your settings

Guidance

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)- Guidance and support](#)
- [Guidance about coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for schools and other educational settings](#)

What is coronavirus?



Diseases known to be caused by Coronaviruses

Mild disease

- the common cold

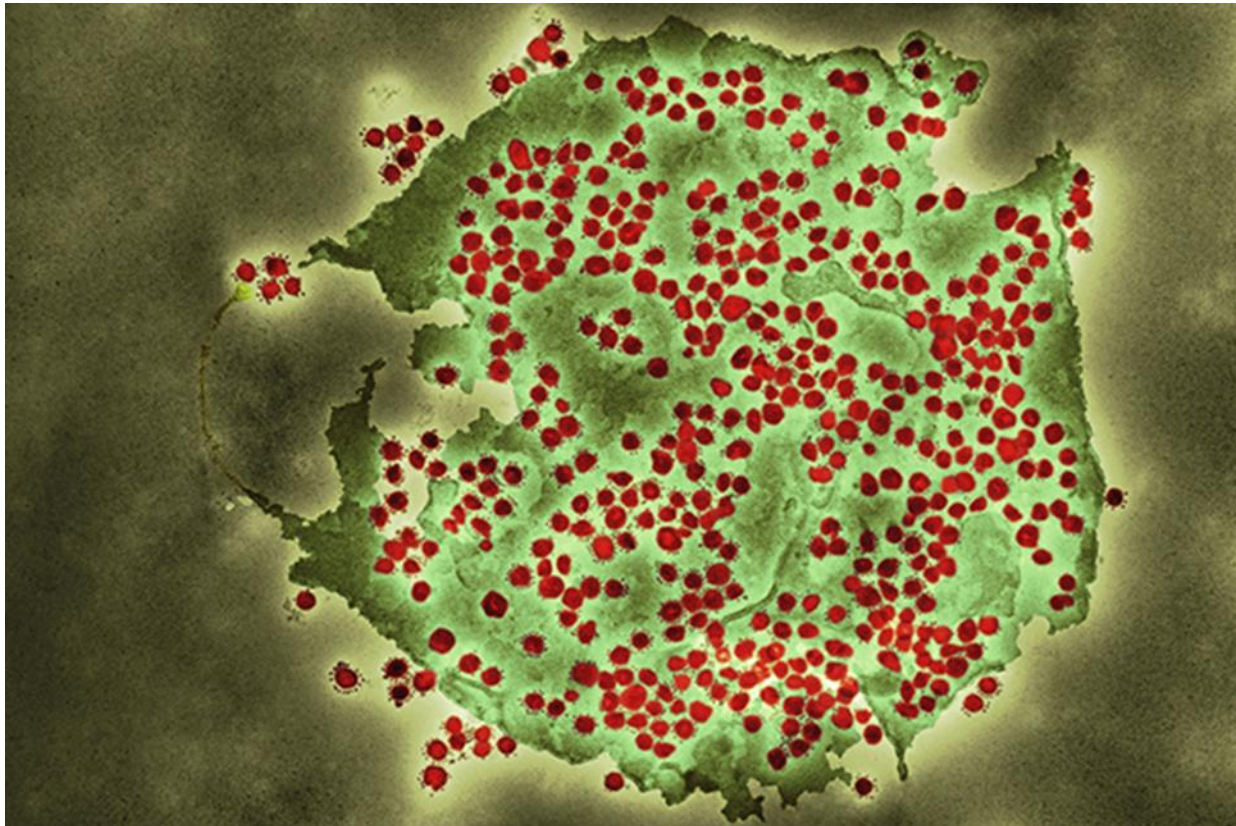
Severe diseases

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)- SARS- Cov1 (2002-2004)
- Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) – 2012

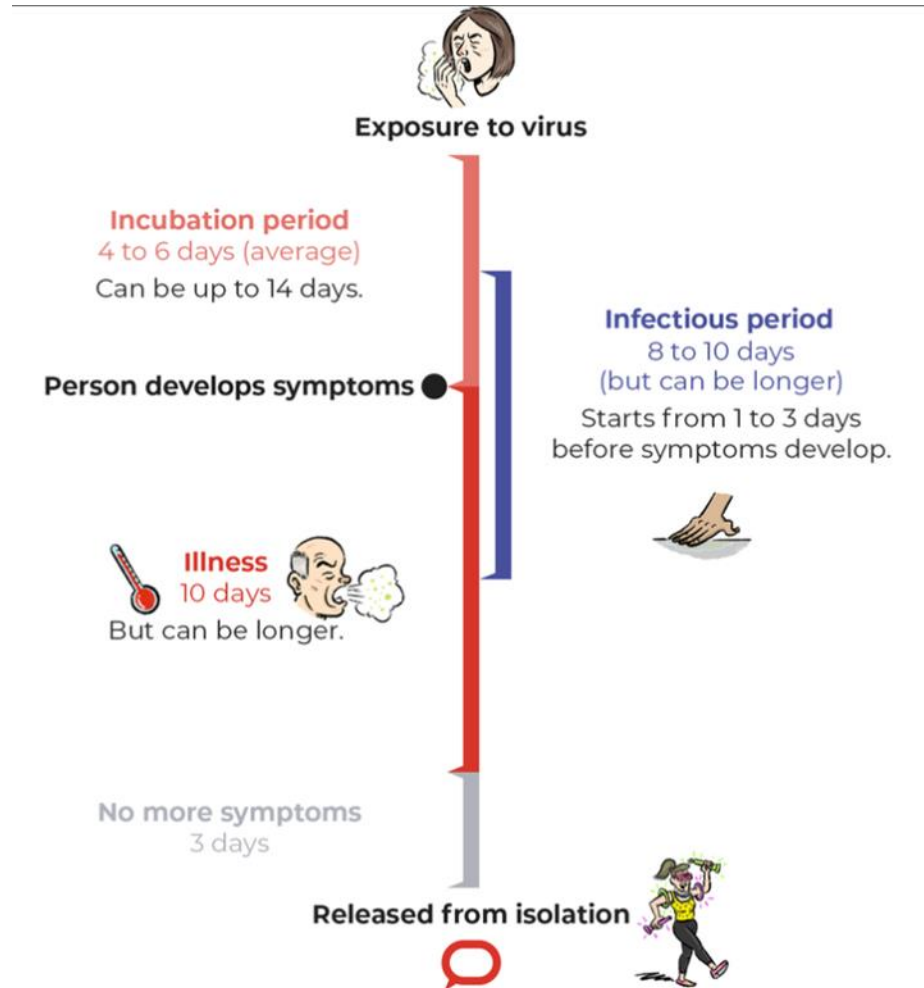
New disease- responsible for current Pandemic

- COVID-19- is caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. This is a new virus to which there is no known population immunity meaning that everyone is potentially susceptible.

Electron micrograph (TEM) of a SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus particle.



COVID-19 – course of illness in majority



Incubation period & infectious period of COVID-19

Incubation period :

“The time interval between initial contact with an infectious agent and the appearance of the first sign or symptom of the disease”

Range 1-14 days

Average- 4-6 days

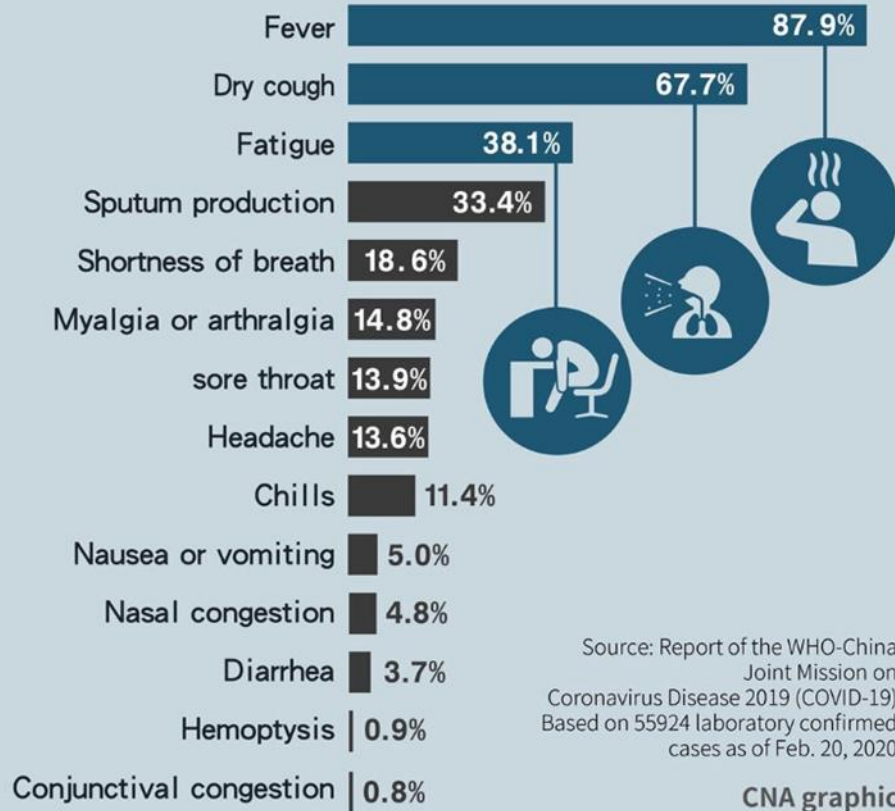
Infectious period is defined as :

“This is the time during which an infectious agent may be transferred from an infected person to another person.”

The infectious period may begin 1-2 days before symptoms appear and lasts for around 7 days from onset of symptoms.

For those with very mild symptoms, the infectious period is from 2 days prior to the positive test and up to seven days from the positive test.

Typical symptoms of COVID-19

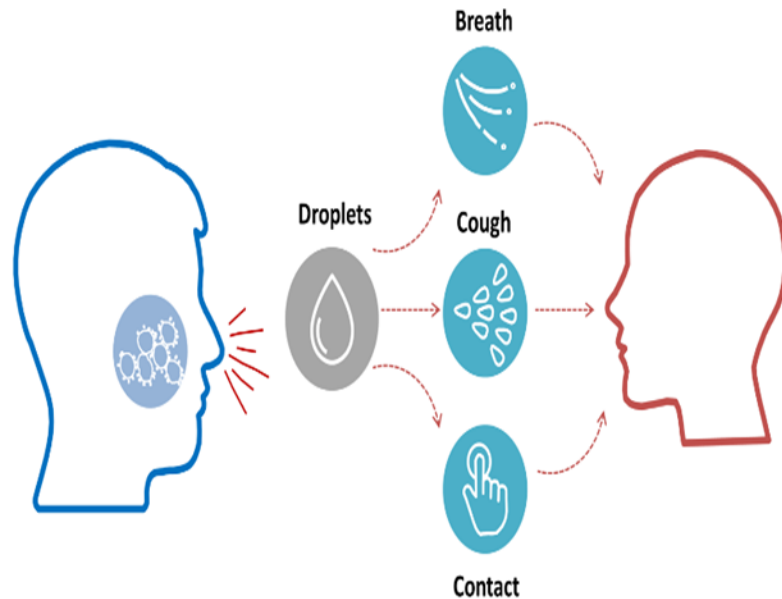


- Fever >37.8
- Cough – new persistent



In children symptoms may be mild and non specific

How the disease spreads ?



COVID-19
Know The Facts

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

COVID-19 spreads primarily from person to person

- Droplets released when someone sick sneezes or coughs can land on the mouths or noses of people nearby
- Close contact with someone sick – like hugging or shaking hands

COVID-19 mainly spreads from person to person
But it can also be left on objects and surfaces...

tissue
laptop and mouse
lift buttons
pens
digital devices
doorknobs

So if you touch something contaminated and then touch your face or another's face, you might all fall ill.

Reduce your risk of COVID-19

- Clean your hands often
- Cough or sneeze in your bent elbow – not your hands!
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Coronavirus – risk of transmission in schools

Working with large numbers of children and young people

- Exposure to respiratory droplets e.g. when undertaking tasks close to a coughing child or young person
- Aerosol generating procedures (e.g. tracheostomy care, suctioning, for children with SENs)

Environment

- The virus can survive in the environment on surfaces and may last up to 9 days on hard surfaces
- The virus is easily inactivated on surfaces using bleach containing solutions (where appropriate) and standard detergents
- The virus is easily inactivated on hands by washing with soap, water and drying, or by using alcohol-based gels on clean hands

Self isolation

- Stay at home for at least 7 days if you have symptoms or have a positive tests
- Stay at home for 14 days if a household member COVID-19 symptoms,
- Any close contacts of confirmed cases will also be advised to isolate for 14 days

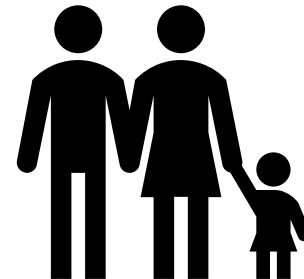


Social distancing

To reduce to the spread of COVID-19; both in our day-to-day lives, and for everyone in the school setting.

Minimise mixing in groups within the school setting, think about

- Before and after school clubs
- Drop off and pick up times
- Lunchtimes / playtimes



Respiratory hygiene



Handwashing



Step 3 – for at least 20 seconds



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

PPE won't be required in most education settings

Exceptions

- For children requiring personal care where PPE is already used. Consider enhanced PPE for aerosol generation procedures
- If staff need to care for anyone who has symptoms and cannot maintain 2 meters distance

There is a useful video for staff [here](#)



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Guide to donning and doffing standard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

for health and social care settings

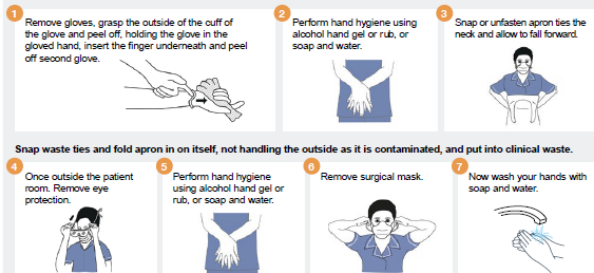
Donning or putting on PPE

Before putting on the PPE, perform hand hygiene. Use alcohol handrub or gel or soap and water. Make sure you are hydrated and are not wearing any jewellery, bracelets, watches or stoned rings.



Doffing or taking off PPE

Surgical masks are single session use, gloves and apron should be changed between patients.



Please refer to the PHE standard PPE video in the COVID-19 guidance collection:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures

If you require the PPE for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-aerosol-generating-procedures

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Environmental cleaning

- Cleaning in non clinical settings
- Detergents can be effective
- If anyone has been infectious at school, consider a combined detergent / disinfectant or following cleaning with disinfection
- Cleaners generally wear gloves / apron. If someone has been infectious in a setting, then a mask and possibly eye protection should be worn.



Preparing your school for COVID-19

- Ensure staff and parents aware that individuals should be isolated at home if symptomatic, or if anyone in their household is symptomatic.
- Ensure staff aware of your infection prevention and control measures
- Support children and young people with hand and respiratory hygiene
- Ensure adequate **supplies** – tissues, liquid soap, paper towels, cleaning materials, lidden waste bin
- Ensure adequate **PPE** is available – disposable gloves, aprons, fluid repellent face masks if needed
- Ensure appropriate **environmental cleaning** systems and waste disposal systems are in place
- Consider **isolation facilities** –if staff or pupils become symptomatic whilst in the setting

Definitions

Case definitions:

Confirmed case: laboratory test positive case of COVID-19 with or without symptoms

Possible case: new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

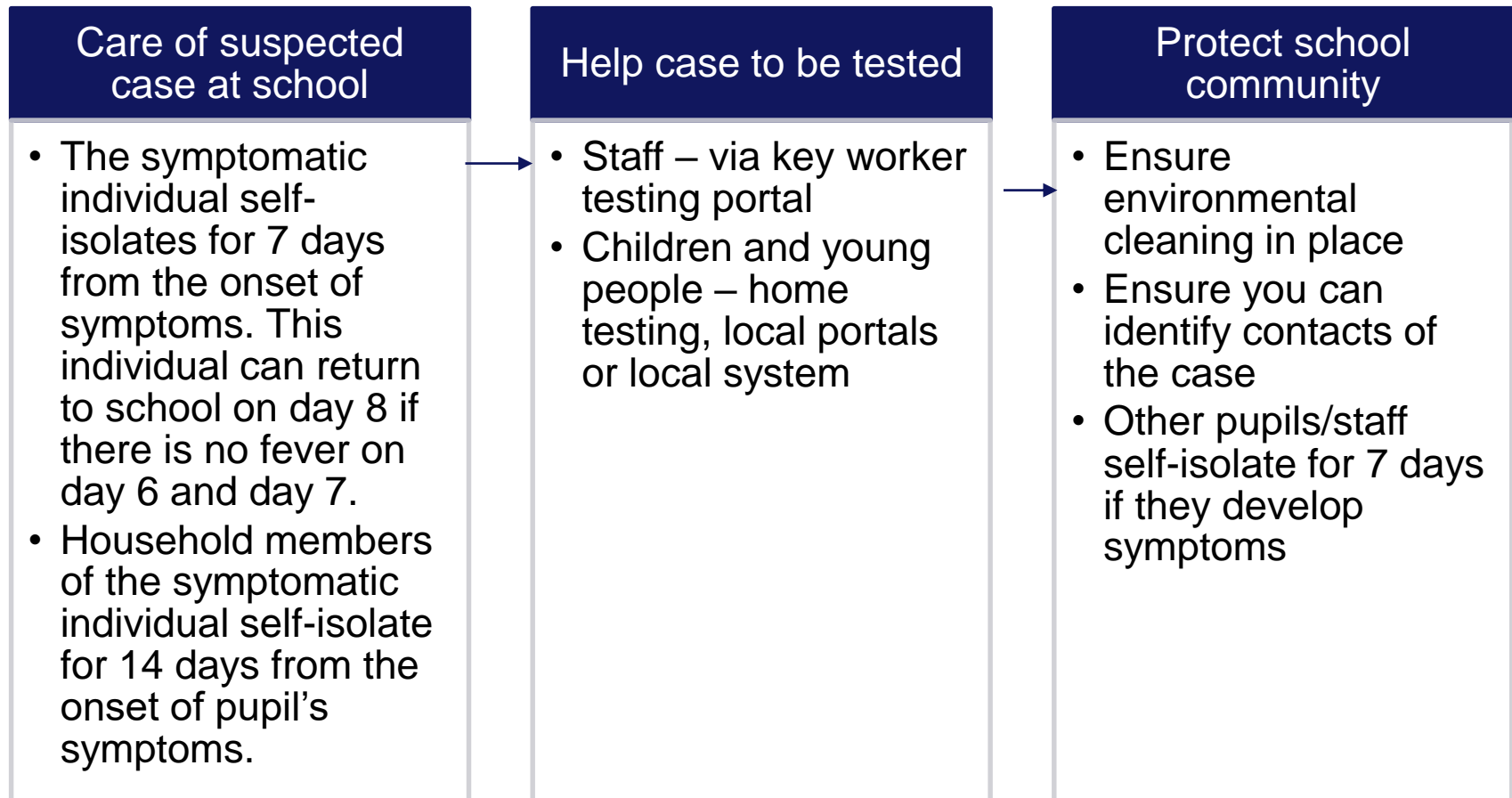
Contact definitions:

Direct close contacts: Face to face contact with a case for any length of time, within 1m, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

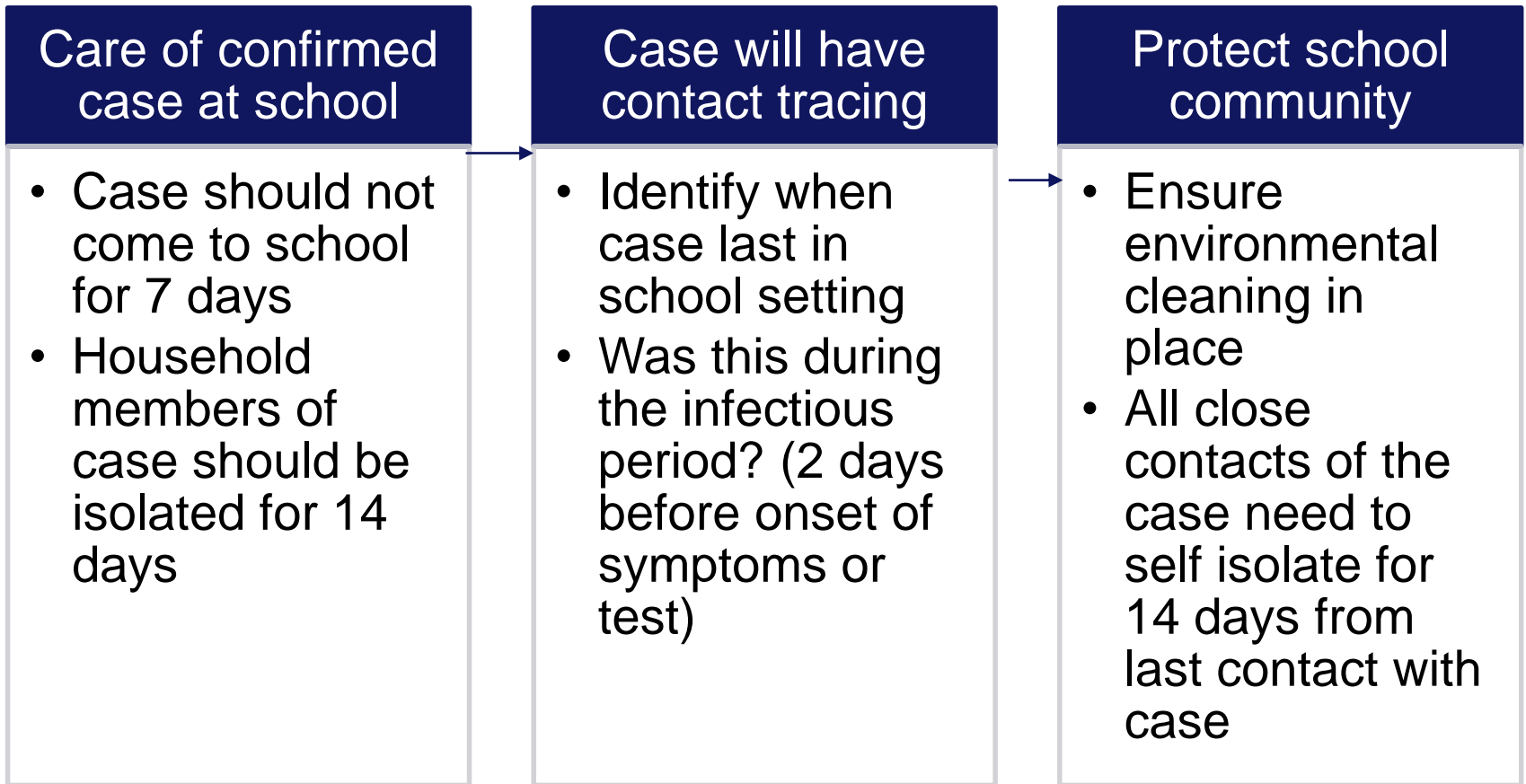
Proximity contacts: Extended close contact (within 2m for more than 15 minutes) with a case

Travelled in a small vehicle with a case

Dealing with a single suspected case of COVID-19



Dealing with a single confirmed case of COVID-19



Outbreak definitions

Two or more suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff who are direct close contacts, proximity contacts or in the same cohort* in the school/college within 14 days“Two or more cases linked by place, time or person”

* **a cohort** might be a class, year group or other defined group within the school/college.

This could be suspected or confirmed cases

Outbreak in schools

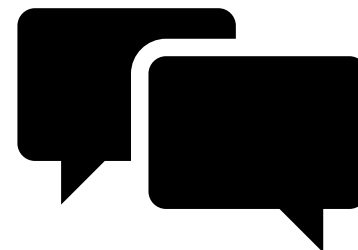
If an outbreak is suspected:

1. For anyone with symptoms or a positive test at school, ensure they go home safely. In an emergency call 999 and inform the ambulance provider and receiving hospital of a potential outbreak.
2. Inform the PHE HPT on 03442253560 option 0 and option 2 in and out of hours or electronically through the select survey link below:
<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n4KL97m2I>
3. PHE will contact the school to collate key details and may set up an Incident Management Team meeting (IMT).
4. Further exclusions and testing within the school will be a system discussion with PHE, the school and the local authority.

When to convene an IMT

Consider the need for an Incident Management Team meeting if:

- There has been a death at the school/college
- There are a large number of vulnerable children
- There are a high number of cases
- The outbreak has been ongoing despite usual control measures
- There are concerns on the safe running of the school
- There are other factors that require multi-agency coordination and decision making



Useful Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

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>

Cleaning and disinfection in non-healthcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Acknowledgements

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