



Department  
for Education

# **Out-of-school settings: COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers**

**February 2022**

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## Changes to the previous version

Changes to the guidance since its 21 February 2022 publication include:

- Update to [Tracing close contacts and isolation](#) to reflect new public health guidance from 24 February
- Update to [What to do if your child develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test](#) to reflect new public health guidance from 24 February

## Who this guidance is for

This guidance is for parents and carers of children (those who were under the age of 18 on 31 August 2021) who attend:

- wraparound childcare - for example, breakfast and after-school clubs
- holiday clubs
- tuition
- community activities

This guidance explains the steps parents can take to help manage coronavirus (COVID-19) when using these settings for their children.

## Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers

Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers include:

- tuition and learning centres
- extra-curricular clubs - for example, sports, dance, art and drama clubs
- uniformed youth organisations - for example, Scouts, Guides and cadet forces
- supplementary schools
- private language schools
- religious settings offering education - for example, madrassahs, yeshivas and Sunday schools

Providers should be following the [COVID-19: Actions for Out-of-school Settings guidance to manage COVID-19 in their setting](#).

## Vaccinations

We recommend all adults and eligible children and young people take up the offer of a vaccine.

You can find out more about the in-school vaccination programme in the [COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people: guidance for parents](#).

## Children with health concerns

Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again. Children and young people who were previously identified as being in one of these groups, are advised to continue to follow the guidance contained in [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#).

Children and young people previously considered CEV can attend out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare and should follow the same [COVID-19 guidance](#) as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice. Children and young people over the age of 12 with a weakened immune system should follow [DHSC and UKHSA advice](#) for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk from COVID-19.

# Choosing after-school clubs and out-of-school activities for your child

You should check with the provider that they are following the:

- [relevant after-school clubs guidance](#) to manage COVID-19 in their setting
- safeguarding arrangements outlined in the [guidance for parents and carers on safeguarding children in out-of-school settings](#).

## Mandatory Certification

Mandatory certification is no longer in place and so venues and events are not required by law to use the NHS COVID Pass as a condition of entry, but some may do so voluntarily. Further information on this is available in the guidance on [using your NHS COVID Pass for travel abroad and at venues and settings in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Education and childcare settings should not be using the NHS COVID Pass as a condition of entry for education or related activities such as exams, teaching, extra-curricular activities, or any other day-to-day activities that are part of education or training.

## Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for children, staff and visitors in classrooms, during indoor activities, or in communal areas in out-of-school settings.

Children and young people should follow [wider advice](#) on face coverings outside of their out-of-school setting, including on transport to and from the setting.

## In circumstances where face coverings are recommended

A director of public health might advise an out-of-school setting that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms or during indoor activities (by children, staff and visitors, unless exempt).

In these circumstances, transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn. Transparent face coverings may be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. However, the evidence to support this is currently very limited. Face coverings (whether transparent or cloth) should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth and be made with a breathable material capable of filtering airborne particles.

The main benefit from a transparent face covering is that they can aid communication, for example enabling lip-reading or allowing for the full visibility of facial expressions, but this should be considered alongside the comfort and breathability of a face covering that contains plastic, which may mean that the face covering is less breathable than layers of cloth.

Face visors or shields can be worn by those exempt from wearing a face covering but they are not an equivalent alternative in terms of source control of virus transmission. They may protect the wearer against droplet spread in specific circumstances but are unlikely to be effective in preventing the escape of smaller respiratory particles when used without an additional face covering. They should only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately.

The use of face coverings may have a particular impact on those who rely on visual signals for communication. Those who communicate with or provide support to those who do, are exempt from any recommendation to wear face coverings in education and childcare settings.

## Tracing and self-isolation

Public health guidance for [People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#) changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.

## Asymptomatic testing

From 21 February, secondary aged children will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. Further information is available in the [NHS get tested for COVID-19 guidance](#).

In the event of an outbreak, an out-of-school setting may also be advised by their local health team or Director of Public Health (DPH) to undertake testing for staff and to encourage children of secondary age and above attending their settings to test for a period of time.

## What to do if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

You should follow guidance on [People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#) if your child has COVID-19 symptoms.



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