

**NHS Tayside's Health Protection
Team: Management of cases of
COVID-19**

Information for Parents

7 August 2020

Overview

- The Health Protection Team and its role.
- ‘Test and Protect’ and contact tracing
- Action taken for a possible/ suspected/ confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 in a school setting.

Health Protection Team (HPT)

- Part of NHS Tayside's Public Health Directorate.
- Core function: to monitor infectious diseases and respond to notifications of cases to identify source and stop onward spread
- The HPT works closely with partners including education and environmental health

PH Local <—> National interface

- NHS Tayside HPT manages local processes/procedures, cases and localised issues.
- Public Health Scotland is the national PH organisation and produces Scotland wide guidance and supports local HPTs.

COVID-19

- Most commonly associated with
 - new continuous cough
 - and/or high temperature
 - and/or loss of or a change in smell and taste

Anyone with any of these symptoms must isolate immediately, alongside their household and arrange testing for COVID-19 ASAP

Staff or pupil with symptoms of COVID-19

- Should not attend school
- The person and their household should isolate immediately and arrange testing for COVID-19
- If a person develops symptoms of COVID-19 at school they should be isolated until they are collected to be taken home
- In addition any household members (including those also at school) should go home to self isolate

Returning to school after having symptoms consistent with COVID-19

If test is **positive**

- the person can return when they are feeling better **AND** they have completed the 10 day self isolation period
- They do NOT require a negative COVID-19 result prior to return to school

If the test is **negative**

- the person can return when they are feeling better provided no one else in the household is unwell

If a household member is unwell...

All household members must isolate also until either:

- the person with symptoms is tested for COVID-19 and the result is negative OR
- the person is confirmed as COVID positive AND the household member has completed 14 days isolation

Household isolation

- Household isolation means all household members or extended household members should remain at home and should not go to work, school, public areas or use public transport. The household should not go out to buy food or other essentials.
- Further information including support for household isolation can be found at [NHS Inform](#)
- If a parent/carer is required to self isolate but their child does not/has finished their self isolation period, the parent/carer should not take/pick up their child from school. Alternative arrangements should be made until the parent's/carer's self isolation period is complete.

Test & Protect Principles

- Encourage anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 to seek testing, and self isolate while awaiting result
- Ensure confirmed 'cases' are self isolating
- Promptly identify any 'close contacts'
- Risk assess contacts to determine public health intervention required
- Provide advice to contacts
- Support contacts to self isolate effectively

Contact tracing

- Anyone with a new confirmed positive COVID-19 infection will be contacted by the contact tracing team
- Contact tracing includes gathering details of close contacts during the infectious period including settings they have been during this time (e.g. school, work, restaurant etc.)

HPT management of a person with confirmed COVID-19 associated with a school

- Public Health are automatically informed of all new positive COVID-19 results
- The contact tracing team will speak with the 'case' (or parent/guardian) to identify close contacts
- All close contacts will also be contacted
- The school should also contact NHS Tayside's HPT if they become aware of a **confirmed** case in the pupils or staff
- If a case has connections with a school the HPT will liaise with the school to discuss (only sharing information on a need to know basis) including rates of absences, infection control measures already in place, other concerns.

Problem Assessment Group/ Incident Management Team

- Standard multiagency response, led by Public Health
- Purpose
 - Risk assessment
 - Risk management
 - Risk communication
- If possible COVID-19 outbreak in a school (e.g. ≥ 2 connected cases within 14 days) would convene an IMT. May have PAG/IMT if only one confirmed case of COVID-19.

Potential actions where confirmed COVID-19 case(s) in a school

- Suite of options available
- Each situation is unique and requires a detailed risk assessment by the PAG/IMT
- Ongoing intelligence gathering – continually learning from other areas of Scotland and other countries as pandemic develops.

Communication

- Clear communication with all key parties
- Core function of a IMT to agree messaging and regularly update those involved
- Messaging is most effective when communicated in a controlled manner through established and agreed communication channels

Preparedness and risk reduction in
advance are key!

To arrange testing:

- For pupils/their household members: parents should be directed to NHS Inform
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-testing>
or the Scottish Government
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/arrange-a-test/>
- Or if no access to the internet, phone: 0800 0282816
- For staff: schools will be able to register their symptomatic staff as Category 3 key workers under the employer referral portal