

When do I need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), what PPE do I need and how do I use it safely?

Most staff in education, childcare and children's services will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from others.

PPE is only needed in a small number of cases:

- children, young people and learners whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (new continuous cough OR fever OR loss/change to sense of smell or taste) while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

In non-residential settings, any child, young person or other learner who starts displaying coronavirus symptoms while at their setting should, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. In exceptional circumstances, where this is not possible, and the setting needs to take responsibility for transporting them home, or where a symptomatic child or young person needs to be transported between residential settings, you should do one of the following:

- use a vehicle with a bulkhead
- the driver and passenger should maintain a distance of 2 metres from each other
- the driver should use PPE, and the passenger should wear a face mask if they are old enough and able to do so

The Infection Control and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19, Guidance for non-Health Care settings v2 booklet provides a clear table which outlines the PPE required in each setting. Row l to p relate to education settings (pages 12 and 13) and rows r-t on page 14 cover cleaning of infected areas and transporting children.

To minimise the risk of infection it is important that PPE is put on (donning) and taken off (doffing) correctly and that it is disposed of carefully. Guidance on donning and doffing is on page 19 and is supported by a video which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures>.

Information on disposal can be found on page 2. The guidance also provides helpful background information as well as best practice handwashing and PPE specifications. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with this information and will continue to update it as necessary.

Members of staff that have been supervising a child or young person with symptoms of COVID in a school or early years setting can return to work once the child/young person has been collected. They should not need to change their clothes if the guidance described here has been followed, unless the clothes have been obviously soiled for example with vomit.