

**Some advice on Social Distancing – this is the advice the academies have received. Can parents/carers/social workers and others follow this. Thank You.**

To help ensure that the risk of virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible, education and childcare settings that remain open should:

- tell children, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to visit the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- consider how children arrive at the education or childcare setting and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport
- ensure class sizes reflect the numbers of teaching staff available and are kept as small as possible
- stagger lunch times, break times and the movement of pupils around the school to reduce large groups of children gathering
- discourage parents from gathering at school gates
- try to follow the [social distancing guidelines](#)

Social distancing within education and childcare settings with very young children will be harder to maintain. Staff should implement the above measures as far as they are able, whilst ensuring children are kept safe and well cared for within their settings.

We are asking you to:

- think about how the above can be implemented in your education or childcare setting
- make sure anyone who is feeling ill stays at home (for residential special schools and colleges, this means self-isolating as a school or college 'household' if a resident is ill). See the [guidance on isolation for residential educational settings](#)
- ensure all staff and children wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently, and are encouraged not to touch their face, while using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and using bins for tissue waste. If children or young people have trouble washing their hands, ensure help is available
- inform parents and communities about the measures that you are taking and get their help to implement them
- increase cleaning of surfaces in classrooms, including desks and handles, and within toilet blocks and changing rooms, adhering to [guidance on cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#)
- for children and young people with an EHC Plan, work with the local authority as well as with parents to decide how best to continue supporting these children and young people to stay healthy

The DfE will work with schools, childcare settings and local authorities to ensure that adequate supplies of personal and domestic cleaning products are available to schools. We will issue further detailed guidance for settings regarding the supply of Personal Protective Equipment to settings that require it.

We know that education and childcare settings may face additional costs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). We will put in place a new process that allows us to reimburse schools for exceptional costs that they face as a result.

**What parents can do**

- Talk to their children about coronavirus (COVID-19), social distancing and hand washing.
- Follow [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).
- Do not gather at entrances or in playgrounds, and model social distancing so that their children learn good practice.