

Questions about confirmed suspected and confirmed cases and isolating

Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- High temperature – this means hot to the touch on your chest or back
- A new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything.

1. What happens if there is a suspected case of COVID-19 at Alameda?

We isolate the child and arrange for them to be collected. We request that families arrange for a test to be taken and inform us of the result. We will contact families of children in the “bubble” to let them know that a test is being taken. We also report to the Local Authority. No names are mentioned in any of our communication or reporting.

We also contact families if a test is taken for other reasons – such as “track and trace”. We will inform families of the result.

There is a thorough cleaning process for areas where anyone with suspected COVID-19 has been.

2. What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Alameda?

In the event of a confirmed case, as advised in the DfE guidance for schools, we would contact the local Health Protection Team and the Local Authority. The guidance sets out the following:

“The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person.”

In our risk assessment and our wider planning, the likelihood is that this would be the whole form group bubble and we will inform families of this. We have worked hard to try to keep bubbles as small as possible for this reason.

We will set work on Google Classroom for the isolated bubble(s).

3. In the event of a confirmed case at another school, and the bubble is asked to isolate, should this also mean sibling at Alameda also has to isolate?

The guidance goes on to state that the household of someone who is sent home from school does not need to isolate unless the person sent home (or anyone else in the household) develops symptoms.

This means pupil at Alameda would not need to self-isolate and could still be attend Alameda even if his sibling had to self isolate as their bubble at another school closes. This would change if any of your family started to display symptoms.

4. Equally if pupil at Alameda is asked to isolate, should pupil at another school also do so?

As above, the guidance states that the whole household does not need to isolate unless someone develops symptoms.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/915553/Symptomatic_children_action_list_SCHOOLS.pdf