

This protocol, based on a risk assessment, is designed to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 infection for our In-school Volunteers. It follows Government advice.

Schools

Schools should organise children in 'bubbles' to minimise contact and hence risk of infection.

We ask that schools:

1. Give volunteers an induction on their Covid-19 protection measures
2. Arrange that each volunteer works with children from one bubble only
3. Provide a well-ventilated workplace for the volunteer and child with enough surrounding space so that social distancing can be followed by other people
4. Copy volunteers promptly on an email (or similar) chain to alert them of any changes in health & safety re Covid-19, including any cases in the school.

We will discuss and agree this protocol with each school before volunteers go in.

Volunteers

1. Follow your school's measures in connection with Covid-19. (If you do not receive a health & safety induction from your school, please request it. If it is not forthcoming, please inform Number Champions accordingly and withdraw from the school until the situation is resolved. We will follow up directly with the school.)
2. We do not require you to wear a face covering. If the school requests this, however, please let us know and we will pay expenses.
3. When walking with a child, maintain social distancing, of a full two metres to the extent practical.
4. Before and after working with each child, clean your hands using hand sanitiser or soap and water. (We will pay expenses for a small hand sanitiser if requested.)
5. Be aware of the risk of touching surfaces in the school (such as a door handle, bell pad, desk, or chair). Clean your hands before touching your face.
6. When sitting for your session with a child, maintain a distance of at least one metre. As the virus can be spread by droplets in the breath, it is better if you can face the same way as the child rather than directly towards them.
7. The normal safeguarding rule is that you should not touch a child. This is reinforced to reduce infection risk.
8. As far as possible, do not touch the same objects as a child. In particular, children should bring their own whiteboards and pens to the session. Where you work with concrete objects and both you and a child will touch these:
 - a. Prepare these in advance for each child, in such a way that they have not been touched for 72 hours.
 - b. After use, store them in such a way that they are not touched for 72 hours.
9. Check with the school if they require children to wash their hands after the session with you. If so, remind the child at the end of the session – however, it is not your responsibility to ensure that children do wash their hands.
10. If you have any reason to believe that you may be carrying Covid-19 – in particular if you or anyone in your household is showing any of the symptoms or has tested positive or has been advised to self-isolate – do not go into the school. Please inform the school and Number Champions promptly.

Government advice

“Transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) mainly occurs through respiratory droplets generated during breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing. These droplets can directly infect the respiratory tracts of other people if there is close contact. They also infect others indirectly. This happens when the droplets get onto and contaminate surfaces, which are then touched and introduced into the mouth or eyes of an uninfected person.”

Source: ‘Education and childcare during coronavirus’ - Department for Education

Medical advice is that face coverings do not prevent the wearer from contracting the virus, but they do reduce the risk of a wearer who has contracted the virus from transmitting it to others. It is government policy that masks should not be worn in primary schools unless there are special circumstances.