

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Barking &
Dagenham

Children returning to primary school

Information for parents and carers about
how local schools are Covid-secure



This Leaflet has been produced by Barking and Dagenham
Education Commissioning and Public Health Teams.
This document is subject to review in line with new guidance.



Should I be sending my child to school?

We understand that people are worried about COVID-19 and that some children and young people have not yet had the opportunity to return to school. It is important to know that the Council and Public Health are working closely with schools to make sure children and school staff are safe when they return in September.

Children must go back to school in September. This is important because children and young people need to get back to learning, meet with their friends and interact with their teachers. School plays a key role in supporting children's wellbeing.

Over the past few months, every school in Barking and Dagenham has put safety measures in place to make sure your child is safe.

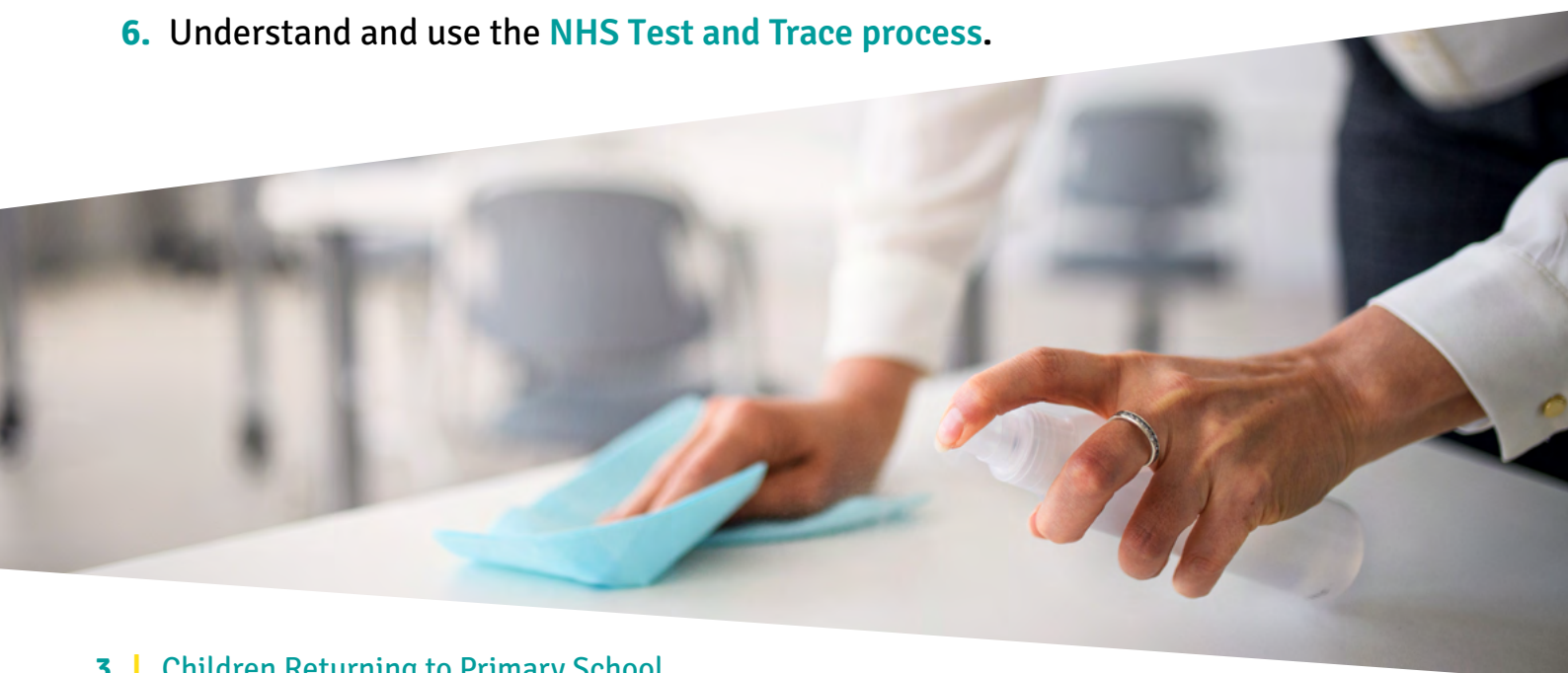


What will schools do to keep my child safe?

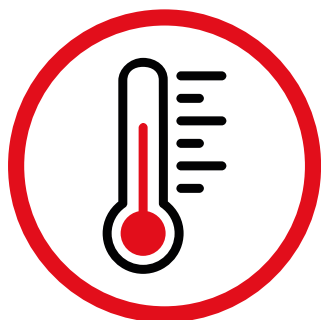
The Council's Public Health and Education Teams have been working closely with schools to safely welcome back all pupils.

Following government guidance, each school will follow these steps when pupils return in September:

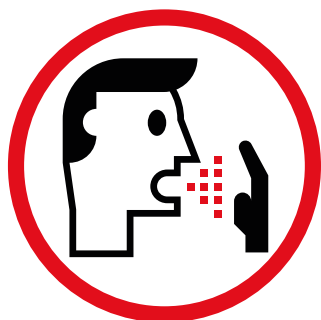
1. Tell pupils and staff that they must not come to school if they, or someone in their household has symptoms of COVID-19.
2. Clean hands regularly and more thoroughly than usual. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on the skin. Children and staff will have to wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and running water. This will be done when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms, and before and after eating. Schools will help oversee these exercises and ensure they become part of the daily routine.
3. Promote the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach to disposing of tissues.
4. Introduce more cleaning of surfaces.
5. Minimise contact between individuals by separating groups and maintaining distance. Children will stick within their bubble and where possible not mix with other bubbles. This is like keeping within family groups, it limits the amount of people the virus can spread between.
6. Understand and use the [NHS Test and Trace process](#).



What should I do if someone in my household has symptoms of COVID-19?



High temperature



New continuous cough



Loss or change of taste



Loss or change of smell

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms (a temperature or a new, continuous cough, or loss of/change to their sense of taste or smell) please do the following:

1. Keep your child and the rest of your household at home.
2. Let your school know that your child or someone in your household has symptoms.
3. Get tested as soon as possible (book a test by calling **119** or visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
4. Let your school know when you get the results – if your results are negative, your child will be able to return to school once they're feeling better. If your results are positive, you will need to isolate and follow the government guidelines.

What if their test comes back negative?

5. If the test is negative and the person no longer has symptoms, the child and their household can leave self-isolation and return to school.

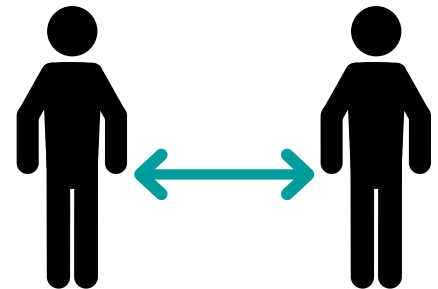
What can I do to keep everyone safe?

Check everyone at home is well regularly and follow the guidelines above if anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms. It is important that children and staff do not attend school if they or anyone in their household has a temperature, new or continuous cough, or loss of/change to their sense of taste or smell. Anyone with these symptoms must get tested for COVID-19. They can only re-attend school once the COVID-19 test returns negative and symptoms stop.

For many people – especially children – catching the virus is likely to produce mild symptoms. If you are concerned about the risk to yourself or your family, please visit the [NHS page on COVID-19](#). This contains information for people who may be at higher risk. If you would like more information, please contact your General Practitioner (GP) or school health team.

Social distancing

Only one parent or carer should take your child to school. Do not stay and chat at the school gates. The safest and healthiest way to travel to school is outdoors: on foot, by bike, or scooter.



Welcome Back!

“

We are pleased to be welcoming children back into the classroom. It has truly been a team effort to ensure that the school environment is safe for learning and we appreciate the role that families play in keeping their school community safe.”

**Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council.**

With special thanks to the London Borough of Camden for sharing their ‘Returning to Primary School’ document.