

Education Webinar

21st September 2021

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Public Health update

[Home](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

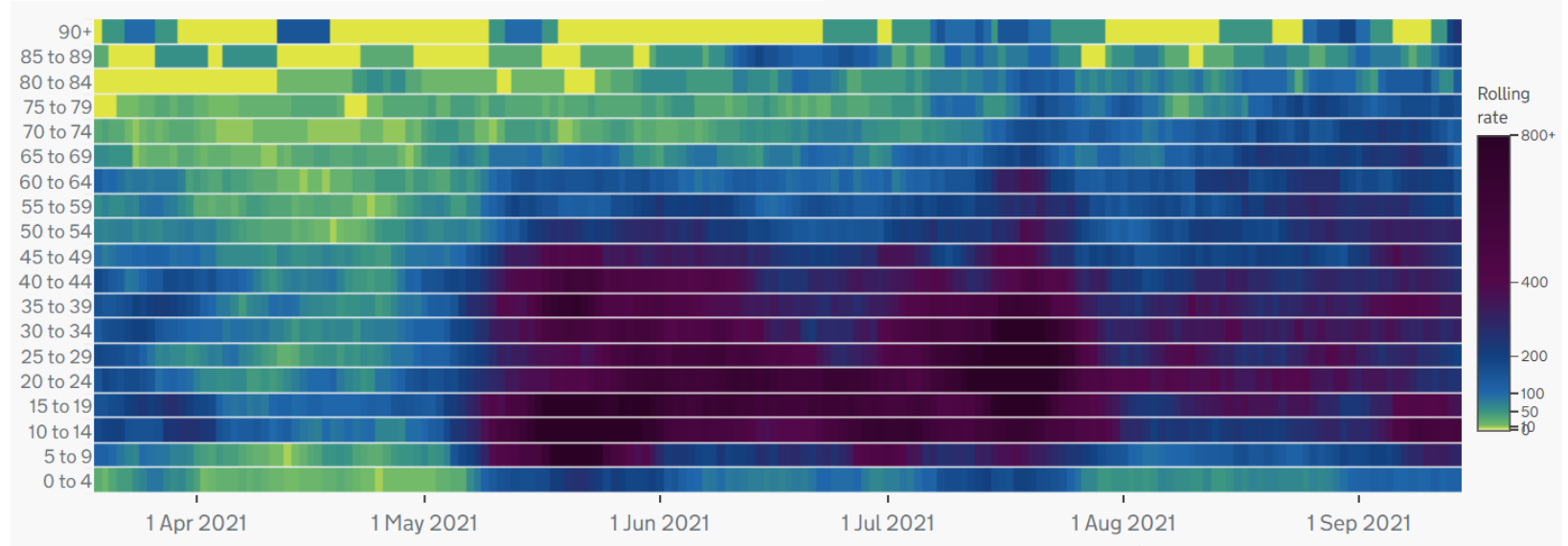
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- [Get tested](#) and self-isolate if required
- If you haven't already, [get vaccinated](#)



[Find out how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#)

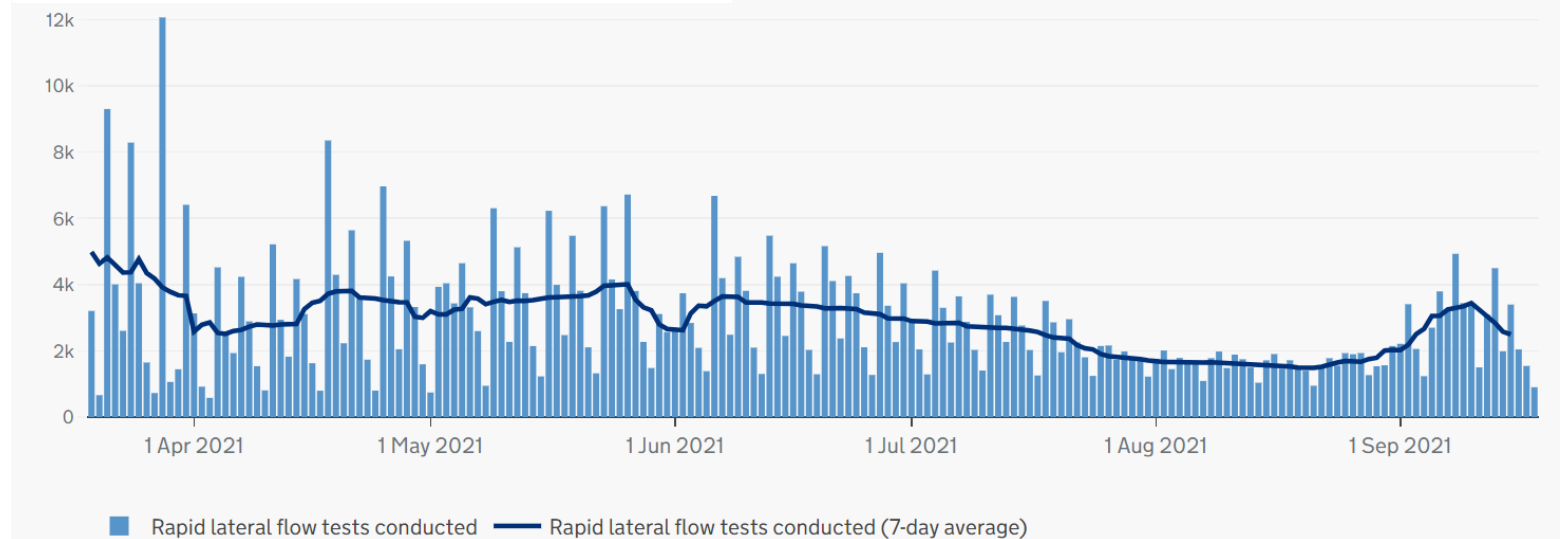
Case rates and test rates

Age-specific case rates by specimen date



<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=Itla&areaName=Bolton> accessed pm 19th Sept 2021

Rapid lateral flow tests conducted



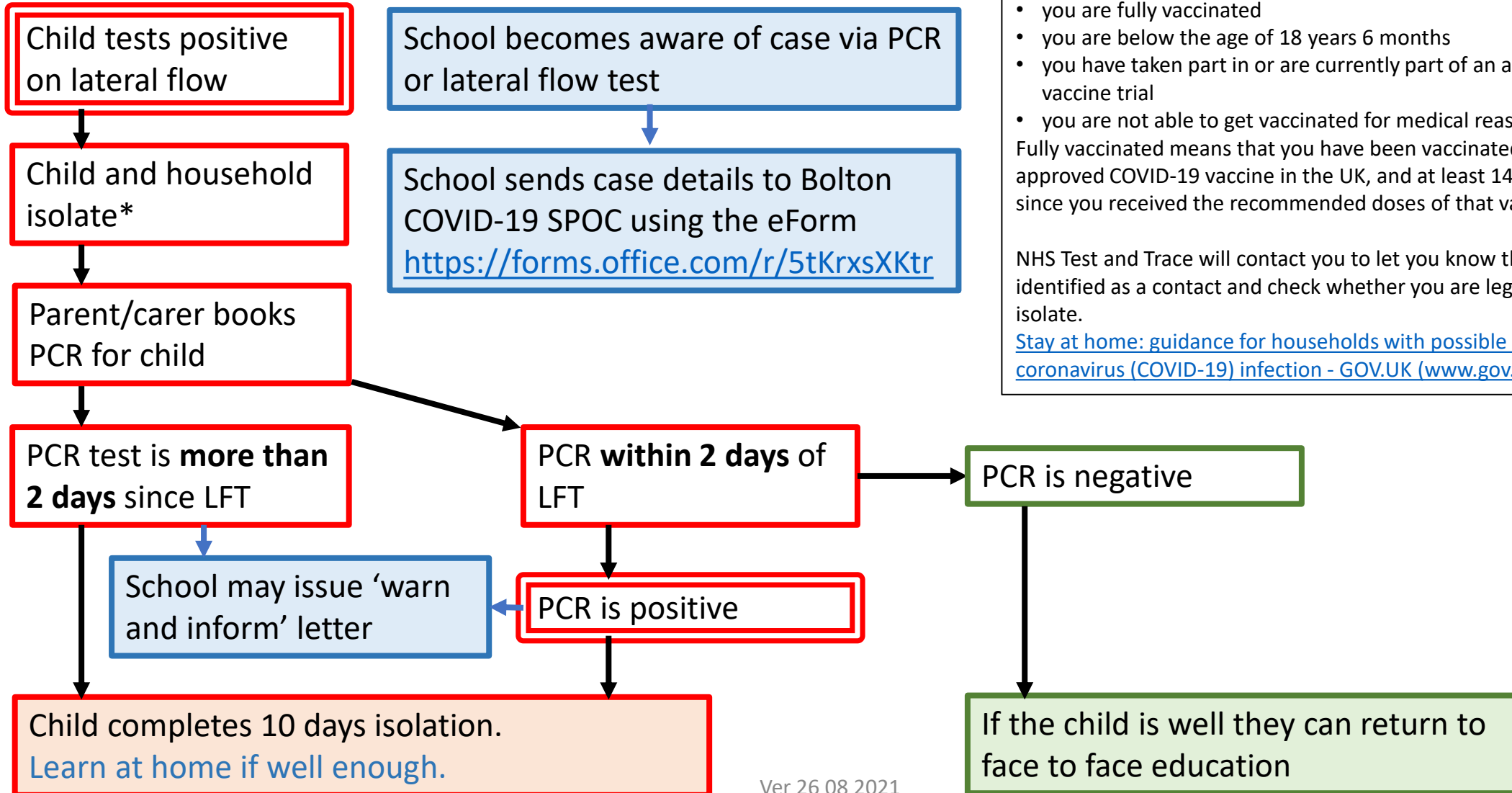
“Important to act early to slow a growing epidemic”, SAGE, 9th Sept 2021

- **Stay cautious**
- Maintain awareness of **symptoms and isolation**
- Promote **twice-weekly, rapid lateral flow testing** for staff, secondary students and families
<http://www.bolton.gov.uk/testing>
- Promote **vaccination** <https://www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/patient-zone/coronavirus>

Managing COVID19 cases in educational settings



Positive case in a student



* From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

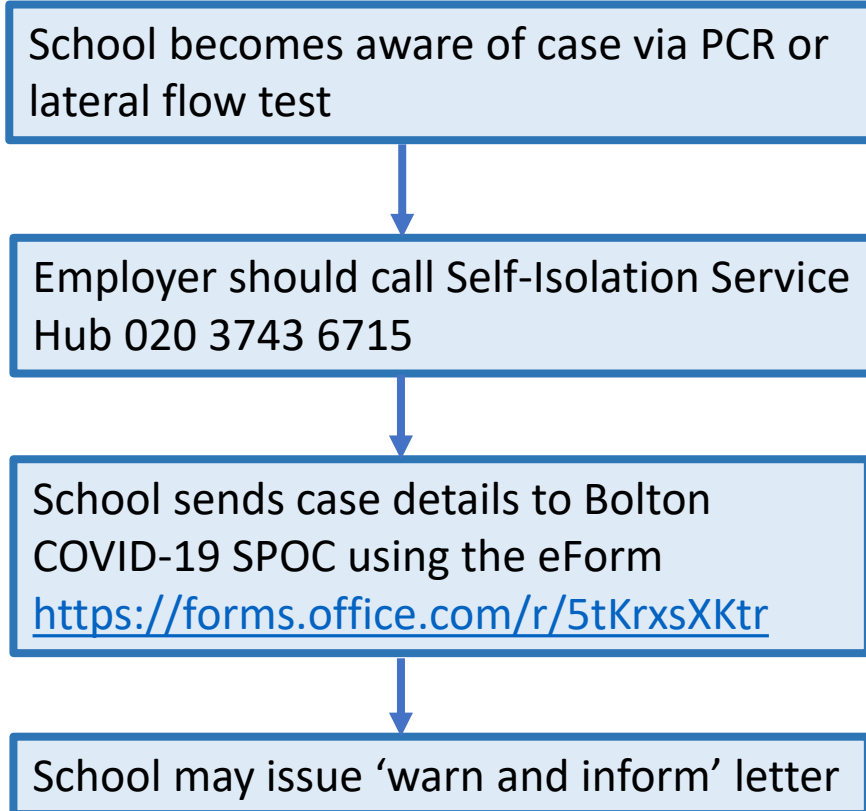
- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate.

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

Positive case in a staff member



For all cases relating to staff, please also see the guidance for workplaces: [NHS Test and Trace in the workplace](#)

Employers should call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715 as soon as they are made aware that any of their workers have tested positive.

If cases amongst staff mean a setting meets the threshold, described above, employers will need to provide the 8-digit NHS Test and Trace Account ID (sometimes referred to as a CTAS number) of the person who tested positive, alongside the names of co-workers identified as close contacts. This will ensure that all workplace contacts are registered with NHS Test and Trace and can receive the necessary public health advice, including the support available to help people to self-isolate. Further guidance is available [here](#)

Extract taken on 25 08 2021 from [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

- [NHS Test and Trace in the workplace - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

When settings should consider further action (thresholds)

Secondaries – only applies after the initial two ATS tests are complete

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:

- 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Close mixing, examples:

- *a form group or subject class*
- *a friendship group mixing at breaktimes*
- *a sports team*
- *a group in an after-school activity*

Extract taken on 25 08 2021 from [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97122/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings.pdf)

➤ **Contact Bolton COVID-19 SPOC on 01204 336004**

Monday – Friday 8.30-5.30; Sat, Sun 9.00-1.30

Covid-19 vaccination programme for children and young people 12-15 years

- Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that introducing a universal programme to healthy secondary school aged children was of ‘marginal benefit’.
- Since that time the 4 UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed to roll out the programme to healthy 12-15 years olds; advising the programme will have other benefits including less disruption to school life and giving friends and family greater protection.
- Children within the 12-15 age range who have underlying health conditions or are considered at higher risk have already been offered the first vaccination dose through the local vaccination programme

Roll out of the school- based vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year-olds

- From week commencing 20th September 2021 healthy children aged 12-15 years will be eligible for their first COVID 19 vaccination and offered a first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. There will be 'mop up' sessions planned for eligible children who are absent/not within the school setting at the time of the programme being delivered.
- This is a schools based vaccination programme, delivered by the school aged immunisation service (SAIS) provided by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and a subcontracted provider and under national guidance will need to be delivered within the next 4-5 weeks. A call out for expressions of interest have been sent to GP primary care contractors.
- Funding for the programme will flow from NHSE to Bolton NHS Foundation Trust who will be contractually and legally responsible for the delivery of the programme, as they are for other school vaccination programmes.
- The COVID-19 vaccination programme is voluntary. Prior to the vaccination, children and young people, and their parents or guardians, will be offered advice and information on the vaccine including information around consent.

Bolton COVID-19 vaccination programme

- The 12-15 year COVID-19 vaccination programme is being led by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust with oversight by Dr Helen Wall, SRO for Bolton's vaccination programme. A project group is in place to develop, plan and deliver the programme (FT, local authority, CCG, primary care)
- The Bolton programme is working to roll out vaccinations to 15,481 children across Bolton secondary schools including independents and special schools (numbers estimated from the school roll).
- Several schools (subject to final sign up) will be initially piloting the vaccination programme across Bolton with plans for all secondary schools with more to follow:
- NHSE have indicated that the 12-15 years vaccine programme roll-out should not disrupt the routine school immunisation and vaccination programme in schools

Consent

- Consent to the COVID-19 vaccination is entirely voluntary. Children and their families will be offered advice and information on the vaccine by Bolton FT's school aged immunisation service.
- When a child is offered a vaccination within the education setting, signed consent forms will be required from parents and guardians.
- Where a child is considered competent* to make a decision on their own this will be handled separately and on a case by case basis by the immunisation team.

* A child who is considered competent is known as being 'Gillick competent'. The NHS states that children under 16 are able to consent :

"if they're believed to have enough intelligence, competence and understanding to fully appreciate what's involved in their treatment".

COVID-19 vaccine information

Benefits

- Children will be offered a single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine which significantly reduces the chances of a young person being infected with COVID-19 and passing this on.
- Clinical evidence shows that a single dose of Pfizer cuts the risk of catching the Delta variant of Covid-19 by 55% and has a much greater effect on preventing severe illness and death. It also cuts transmission.

Side Effects

- The most common side effects amongst children aged 12-15 years are similar to other age groups and include:: pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle and joint pain, chills and fever.
- Any effects are usually mild and improve within a few days.

Please email questions to policyandperformance@bolton.gov.uk

COVID-19 vaccine information

Natural immunity

- More than half of children of secondary school age may have some natural immunity after having been infected.
- People do get an immune response after infection, however this varies from person to person and it depends on whether they had a mild infection or a more severe infection.
- Research shows many of those with a very mild or asymptomatic infection may only have very low levels of antibodies.
- That is why it is recommended that even if someone has been infected, they should still get a jab, because it then serves as a boost to the immune system

COVID-19 vaccine information

Risks

- The vast majority of children who have had the jabs worldwide have not suffered any serious side-effects.
- Data from the US and Canada suggests there are extremely rare events of inflammation of the heart muscle, known as myocarditis. However, this was only after a second dose.
- The JCVI has been asked to look at whether second doses should be given to children and young people aged 12 to 15 once more data comes through internationally.
- There is no evidence the Covid-19 vaccines have any effect on the chances of becoming pregnant or having children. False and misleading claims about Covid vaccines and fertility are still circulating online, however, despite being unsupported by evidence.
- All 16- and 17-year-olds are already being offered a first dose, with the intention of having a second at a later date.
- Those aged 12 to 15 are eligible for two doses if they are at higher risk.

Communications and engagement with local schools and families

- Communications and engagement plans being worked up by communications leads at Bolton NHS FT, Council and CCG
- Discussions with Schools Tactical Group and Bolton Learning Alliance (BLA) representing local secondary schools
- Webinar for all secondary school headteachers taking place on Tuesday 21st September
- Discussions with GMP/civil contingencies to plan for any local protests drawing on local intelligence
- Letter to parents providing information on the local vaccination programme plans with FAQ's

Further information and resources

Guidance and resources for schools

[COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools)

Guidance for parents

[COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people: guidance for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents)

Resources for children and young people

[COVID-19 vaccination: resources for children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people)

Questions



Q&A

Q. I have a member of staff who is pregnant and is concerned about working with other staff members (and children) where they are the close contact of someone who has tested positive. What are the guidelines for employers of staff who are pregnant?

Pregnant staff are now classed as clinically vulnerable and there are no specific guidelines that cover them. I would recommend an Individual Risk Assessment is still carried out to enable a supportive conversation.

Vaccines are safe for pregnant women – Public Health would encourage vaccination take up.