

## Updated FAQs 22 November 2020

I am a childminder, whose husband is symptomatic, so I am self-isolating whilst waiting for my husband's result. If it comes back positive, and the I develop symptoms the following week and as a result has a test, when does my self-isolation need to start from?

*You need to isolate for 14 days from the start of your husband's symptoms.*

*If you go on to become symptomatic yourself, your contacts will need to isolate for 14 days from the date they were last in contact with you. Please be aware you could be contagious from 2 days prior to your own symptoms starting. Therefore, if you isolate now and your own symptoms don't start for 3 days, no one else would have to isolate.*

*However, if you saw children yesterday and your symptoms start today or tomorrow, your close contacts need to isolate for the 14 days from when they last saw you, irrespective of when you get the results.*

*If you don't get any symptoms you can return to work after your 14 days self-isolation (from the start of your husband's symptoms). If you get symptoms at any point in these 14 days you will have to self-isolate for 10 days following your symptoms starting. Even if you are on day 14 of the original isolation period. The clock effectively resets to 10 days if you get symptoms.*

Can children bring in hats, scarves and gloves now the weather is colder. Obviously, they have to have coats as a necessity, but is adding these extra items likely to increase the Covid virus transmission?

*Yes, children can have hats/ gloves etc. We need to be proportionate in actions taken and the overriding issue here is that children are kept warm, and we see no reason why these types of items would increase transmission risk more so than jumpers, coats etc.*

Can children only attend one setting i.e. nursery / childminder etc and NOT both?

*Section 6 of the guidance says*

*"Parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently. This should also be the same for staff.*

*There may be situations where a child needs to attend more than one setting, for example, children attending a childminder before their nursery opens so that their parent or carer may go to work."*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

*The guidance has never been explicit on this and states parents should be encouraged to limit the number of settings attended, and we have said that settings need to risk assess their circumstances and use this to set their own policies*

Temperatures - are we expected to continue to monitor these throughout the day or obviously to use as and when we feel the child is unwell?

*Guidance from Public Health England advise that “routinely taking the temperature of children is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19)” and therefore, temperature alone should not be relied on.*

*The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:*

- *new continuous cough and/or*
- *high temperature*
- *a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

*Therefore, it is probably better to only take temperatures when you feel a child is showing signs of being unwell, alongside other symptoms*

If a setting is advised to close either the whole setting or a certain room because of a positive case, the FEEE funding will continue to be paid. What happens to FEEE funding if we have so many staff off due to their own school age children self-isolating due to a positive test at school and need to close the setting?

*If a setting needs to close due to lack of staff availability they should email the Free Entitlement Funding Queries mailbox ([FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk)) giving full details of the reason for closure.*

*As this is COVID related we would consider each closure on an individual basis with regards to whether FEEE funding will continue to be paid.*

Can a setting still charge parents if their child has been sent home to self-isolate? I have read on the latest information that we can unless we are asked by DFE to close whole setting.

*Essex will continue to pay the Free Entitlement funding for children if they are self-isolating and the setting is still open. Settings should inform parents of what they intend to do with regards to private fees as part of their risk assessment. If a setting plans to continue charging parents as this is covid19 related, they should inform the parents that they are charging fees to try and manage the sustainability of the setting. However, if this causes parents any financial issues they should raise this*

*directly back to the setting. Consideration should be given to parents if they are unable to work and are not paid for the time their child is self-isolating.*

*If a setting is closed due to COVID-19 as notified by Public Health, FEEE funding will be paid for the autumn term. It is recommended that private fees are not charged*

If a child goes on holiday and the country is not on the quarantine list, can I still charge parents for fees if I request they self-isolate as part of my risk assessment?

*Free Entitlement funding will still be paid for any child who has to self-isolate as part of a settings risk assessment. Private fees should not be charged if you have asked the parent to self-isolate after holidaying to a country **not** on the quarantine list, as you have applied restrictions on top of the guidance which is in place.*