

Considerations for EPs before visiting educational settings

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Summary

All children and young people, in all year groups and setting types, are expected to return to education settings, full time, from the beginning of the autumn term.

Our mission is to apply psychology creatively and collaboratively to empower and inspire others to promote inclusion, learning, wellbeing and positive futures for all. We have a key role in supporting children, young people and schools with Covid Recovery, returning to school and the impact of closures.

Our starting point is that EP work should be carried out remotely wherever possible to reduce risks. However when the work would be significantly better (and using best endeavours) EPs should apply these considerations to carrying out observations and/or individual interviews with the child in an educational setting. It is recommended that other information gathering activities are undertaken over the phone.

The following questions should be considered in order to determine the best arrangements to manage and minimise risk due to coronavirus (covid-19).

These procedures will be kept under regular review and will be updated at least termly.

Considerations prior to a visit to a setting

1. Are you self-isolating because you, someone you live with or a member of your support bubble has symptoms? (you must not carry out a visit to a setting, you can work from home if well enough)
2. Has an individual LCC Staff Risk Assessment been completed by your line manager and mitigating actions taken if required?
3. Will the work be significantly better, using best endeavours for EHC NAs, if you undertake a school/setting-based observation and/or interview the child or young person in the setting?
4. Have you contacted the setting prior to the visit to familiarise yourself with school/setting guidance on site visits and to confirm arrangements for the visit? Have you kept a record of any school/ setting information and conversations about preparing for visits?
This might include:
 - Access to the setting and registration procedures
 - Access to sanitiser and hand washing facilities at start, during and at end of visit
 - Access the classroom, room or space for individual work and other areas of the setting as required (for example, staff toilets)
 - Place in classroom to undertake observation that has been cleaned appropriately and enables you to maintain social distancing if possible
5. Have you considered what items are critical for the visit e.g. pens/ equipment/ bags/ tissues/ hand sanitiser and cleaning of items afterwards?

Generally on visits to schools and settings, you should:

1. Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual.
2. Ensure good respiratory hygiene using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
3. Enhance cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces and bags/ pens/ materials often
4. Minimise contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing wherever possible
5. Plan time for hand washing and cleaning equipment
6. Review the visit arrangements with your line manager as required (to inform future practice)

Other relevant information

Shielding paused on 1 August. Children, and staff, who have been shielding are expected to go back to school. Arrangements may be different in areas that have had a local lockdown.

Use of PPE in schools:

- The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work.
- PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, such as:
 - where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus symptoms while at school, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained;
 - where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used.
- When working with children and young people who cough, spit or vomit but do not have coronavirus symptoms, only any PPE that would be routinely worn, should be worn.