

3. Levels and proposed additional control measures advised by Suffolk County Council

3.1 Objectives of additional control measures

1. To ensure face-to-face education is maintained as far as possible across all educational and early years settings and minimise disruption to students' education
2. To protect the health and wellbeing of children and staff in the context of emphasising the importance of face-to-face education
3. Measures should affect the minimum number of children for the shortest time

3.2 Proposed additional control measures from 15 November

The table on the next page summarises the additional control measures advised for educational and childcare settings in Suffolk, depending on their 'level'. Please see [Appendix 2](#) for a simple flowchart to support school and setting leaders to identify which level they are on. Please also see the accompanying more detailed definitions of the [thresholds](#) (section 4) and the [control measures \(section 5\)](#). If there are any questions about this guidance or your setting doesn't meet setting types by early years, primary, secondary school or above, please email CYP19@Suffolk.gov.uk

This is Suffolk County Council Public Health advice and cannot be mandated and will be reviewed every two weeks.

Table 1: Recommended control measures in educational settings in Suffolk from 15 November

Threshold	Criteria to revoke measures	Early Years (children aged 0-4)	Primary (pupils aged 4-11)	Secondary, colleges and further education (students aged 11-19)
Level 1 – applies to all Suffolk settings whether or not there are any COVID-19 cases at the setting	When the Suffolk COVID-19 case rate amongst 10–19-year-olds is either at or below the regional <u>and</u> national rates, it will be reviewed which measures still apply to all Suffolk settings and which move to level 2.	<p>All routine control and IPC measures, e.g., hand washing, ventilation, cleaning, excluding symptomatic individuals from the setting, promotion of vaccination to eligible staff.</p> <p>Essential visiting only Visitor face masks whilst on-site (unless exempt for medical reasons) Staff face coverings (in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons)</p> <p>Twice-weekly LFD home testing for asymptomatic staff Settings are encouraged to ask for evidence of test results.</p> <p>Daily LFD testing of vaccinated staff who are household or close contacts of cases – ask staff to continue to attend the setting, undertake a daily LFD test, and take a PCR test on day 5 from first contact with the symptomatic positive case. Settings are encouraged to ask for evidence of test results.</p>	<p>All routine control and IPC measures, e.g., hand washing, ventilation and CO2 monitoring, cleaning, excluding symptomatic individuals from the setting, promotion of vaccination to eligible staff.</p> <p>Essential visiting only Visitor face masks whilst on-site (unless exempt for medical reasons) Staff face coverings (in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons)</p> <p>Twice-weekly LFD home testing for asymptomatic staff Settings are encouraged to ask for evidence of test results.</p> <p>Daily LFD testing of vaccinated staff and primary aged pupils (at parental discretion) who are household and close contacts of cases – ask staff and pupils to continue to attend the setting, undertake a daily LFD test, and take a PCR test on day 5 from first contact with the symptomatic positive case. Settings are encouraged to ask for evidence of test results.</p>	<p>All routine control and IPC measures, e.g., hand washing, ventilation and CO2 monitoring, cleaning, LFD testing for staff, excluding symptomatic individuals from the setting, promotion of vaccination to eligible staff and students</p> <p>Essential visiting only Visitor face masks whilst on-site (unless exempt for medical reasons) Staff face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons Student face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom and on both school transport and public transport, unless exempt for medical reasons</p> <p>Twice-weekly LFD home testing for asymptomatic staff and secondary aged students Settings are encouraged to ask for evidence of test results.</p> <p>Daily LFD testing of vaccinated staff and secondary aged pupils who are household and close contacts of cases – ask staff and students to continue to attend the setting, undertake a daily LFD test, and take a PCR test on day 5 from first contact with the symptomatic positive case. Settings are encouraged to ask for evidence of test results.</p>



Threshold	Criteria to revoke measures	Early Years (children aged 0-4)	Primary (pupils aged 4-11)	Secondary, colleges and further education (students aged 11-19)
		Staff/children admissions to hospital from COVID-19 - SCC will set-up appropriate structures to support the setting and wider community.	Staff/pupil admissions to hospital from COVID-19 - SCC will set-up appropriate structures to support the school and wider community.	Staff/student admissions to hospital from COVID-19 - SCC will set-up appropriate structures to support the school and wider community.
Level 2 - setting has met national threshold, but below level 3 threshold For most education and childcare settings (whichever criteria is reached first): 5-14 children, pupils, students, or staff who are likely to have mixed closely , test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period OR 10-29% of a defined group of children, pupils, students, or staff who are likely to have mixed closely ¹ test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period Special schools and residential settings, and settings with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students, or staff: 2-5 children/staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period	Setting falls below Level 2 threshold definition	As per Level 1 + Any measures agreed at an Incident Management Team meeting or with Suffolk County Council's CYP COVID Support Team to deal with setting-specific COVID-19 incident Consider² re-introducing 'bubble' arrangements indoors Consider³ staggered start and end times to reduce mixing Whole-genome-sequencing of an identified group - UKHSA will be approached to support, as deemed necessary by SCC. Please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov.uk for support if required	As per Level 1 + Any measures agreed at an Incident Management Team meeting or with Suffolk County Council's CYP COVID Support Team to deal with setting-specific COVID-19 incident Consider⁴ re-introducing 'bubble' arrangements indoors Consider⁵ staggered start and end times to reduce mixing Consider⁶ re-introducing Internal Contact Tracing with close contacts strongly advised to undertake daily LFD testing and seek PCR test on day 5 (as described in level 1 recommendation). Whole-genome-sequencing of an identified group - UKHSA will be approached to support, as deemed necessary by SCC. Please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov.uk for support if required	As per Level 1 + Any measures agreed at an Incident Management Team meeting or with Suffolk County Council's CYP COVID Support Team to deal with setting-specific COVID-19 incident Consider⁷ introducing the following measures: Face-coverings for staff and students <u>in classrooms</u> as well as communal indoor areas. Internal Contact Tracing (where possible) with close contacts strongly advised to undertake daily LFD testing and seek PCR test on day 5 (as described in level 1 recommendation). Group/cohort⁸ LFD testing - daily in secondary schools or colleges where case numbers are very high. This should be done for a minimum of 5 days, increasing to 7 days as necessary to ensure the final test is taken on a school day. Or a one-off round of LFD testing for a wider group or cohort in a secondary school. Settings are encouraged to obtain proof of test results / implement a monitoring process. SCC may be able to support on-site testing on a case-by-case basis. Whole-genome-sequencing of an identified group - UKHSA will be approached to support, as deemed necessary by SCC. Please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov.uk for support if required

¹ The percentages in threshold definitions apply to a defined group that are likely to have mixed closely (e.g., have 10% of a class tested positive within 10 days) and not the whole school.

² Recommendation will be made by Suffolk County Council in discussion with the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account school specifics.

³ Recommendation will be made by Suffolk County Council in discussion with the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account school specifics.

⁴ Recommendation will be made by Suffolk County Council in discussion with the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account school specifics.

⁵ Recommendation will be made by Suffolk County Council in discussion with the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account school specifics.

⁶ Recommendation will be made by Suffolk County Council in discussion with the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account school specifics.

⁷ Recommendation will be made by Suffolk County Council in discussion with the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account school specifics.

⁸ The Group/Cohort are not official close contacts of the cases (e.g., a friendship group), but a wider group (e.g., a whole year group) that may be affected and deemed at risk through the risk assessment of the outbreak by SCC and the setting.



Threshold	Criteria to revoke measures	Early Years (children aged 0-4)	Primary (pupils aged 4-11)	Secondary, colleges and further education (students aged 11-19)
Level 3⁹ Where despite level 2 actions, chains of transmission are not broken. <i>The likely¹⁰ threshold for most education and childcare settings (whichever criteria is reached first):</i> 15 children, pupils, students, or staff who are likely to have <u>mixed closely</u> , test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period OR 30% of a defined group of children, pupils, students, or staff who are likely to have <u>mixed closely</u> ¹¹ test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period <i>The likely¹² threshold for special schools and residential settings, and settings with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students, or staff:</i> 6 children/staff who are likely to have <u>mixed closely</u> test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period	Setting falls below Level 3 threshold definition	As per Level 2 + If chains of transmission are not broken by all above measures, consider¹³ attendance restrictions as last resort - Affected group may not be able to attend the setting for as short a period as possible, but with on-site provision remaining for vulnerable children and key worker children. <u>If you consider your current situation is Level 3, please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov before taking any action</u>	As per level 2 + If chains of transmission are not broken by all above measures, consider¹⁴ attendance restrictions as last resort - Affected class or group to move to home learning for as short a period of time as possible, but with on-site provision remaining for vulnerable children and key worker children. <u>If you consider your current situation is Level 3, please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov before taking any action</u>	As per level 2 + If chains of transmission are not broken by all above measures, consider¹⁵ attendance restrictions as last resort - Affected class or group to move to home learning for as short a period of time as possible, but with on-site provision remaining for vulnerable children and key worker children. <u>If you consider your current situation is Level 3, please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov before taking any action</u>

⁹ There is no national guidance or specific evidence at what threshold should attendance restrictions be considered. We suggest 15 cases / 30% as a guide which SCC CYP are in agreement. E.g., Cumbria introduce attendance restrictions at higher level 4 - 20 cases / 40%.

¹⁰ Attendance restrictions will be a case-by-case decisions where level 2 actions have not broken the chains of transmission. The 15 cases / 30% of a group threshold acts as a guide and not a strict threshold. If you consider your setting's current situation is Level 3, please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov before taking any action.

¹¹ The percentages in threshold definitions apply to a defined group that are likely to have mixed closely (e.g., have 10% of a class tested positive within 10 days) and not the whole school.

¹² Attendance restrictions will be a case-by-case decisions where level 2 actions have not broken the chains of transmission. The 15 cases / 30% of a group threshold acts as a guide and not a strict threshold. If you consider your setting's current situation is Level 3, please contact CYPC19@suffolk.gov before taking any action.

¹³ As Suffolk is in a ERA, recommendation will be made by the local operational outbreak management team, including Public Health and Children and Young People Services representatives. Regional schools commissioner will be kept updated.

¹⁴ Recommendation will be made by the local operational outbreak management team, including Public Health and Children and Young People Services representatives. Regional schools commissioner will be kept updated.

¹⁵ Recommendation will be made by the local operational outbreak management team, including Public Health and Children and Young People Services representatives. Regional schools commissioner will be kept updated.