

Therapies Covid-19 guidance—potential questions from education settings and families

SEN Support/ EHCP questions

Will children and young people receive the same amount of therapy support that they had before? support in my EHCP or SEN Support be delivered to the same extent?

Yes, therapies support will be delivered to the same extent as before as shown on their plan. However we may need to deliver it differently (i.e. via virtual sessions).

How will assessments and reviews work?

Assessments and reviews are continuing. We are using both physical and virtual ways of doing this and will tailor our approach to the needs of the child.

Is there a backlog from the lockdown period? And if so, how will this be addressed?

Yes there is a back log of both assessments and interventions. Every child is being risk assessed to determine the priority. If parents/carers are concerned about a change in the child's condition, they should ring the advice line for support 01992 823093.

Will there be support for children in Early Years settings?

Once children have settled back into their setting, we will consider each child's needs and work out how best to meet those needs. Much of our support for children in Early Years settings will be delivered through telephone or video calls

Children and young people who are continuing to isolate at home questions

Will my child be able to access therapies support, either physically or virtually, even if they are unable to attend school?

Therapy staff will work with families to discuss the needs of children who are continuing to isolate at home on medical advice. We will agree a plan for providing continued care and support. For most this will be delivered virtually, therefore support can continue whilst isolating

What precautions are in place for children who have life-long conditions, who may be more vulnerable to Covid-19 and/or require extensive therapies support?

We have many precautions in place to ensure that therapy can be safely delivered to children and young people who have life-long conditions. We have ensured that children and young people with complex medical needs have been supported throughout the coronavirus pandemic. However, if you have concerns about your child's therapy support, please contact us on 01992 823093.

Practicalities questions

Will therapists and/or children and young people have to wear PPE such as a mask?

Therapists will need to wear PPE (a mask, apron and gloves) if they are delivering therapies support face to face and cannot be over 2m away from the child, either at school, at a clinic or in the child's home. Families attending clinics will need to wear face coverings (noting exceptions for medical reasons and child's age). More [information about appointments and PPE during Covid-19 is available on the HCT website.](#)

Where would face to face therapy sessions take place?

Face to face therapy sessions will either take place at the child's school, in a clinic or at the child's home. Risk assessments are carried out for any face to face appointment to ensure everyone's safety.

How would a virtual therapy session work either at the school or from the child's home?

Video or telephone consultations will be used to discuss a child's progress, explain activities and ways to support children. Families are provided with details of how to access their child's virtual appointment when booked with the service. [More information on virtual appointments is available on the HCT website.](#)

Are virtual therapy sessions effective?

Therapy staff will consider each child's needs to decide what type of appointment will best meet their needs. feedback from families who have already accessed virtual therapy services for children and young people have been highly positive.

What should I do if my child (or a child in their 'bubble') has possible Covid symptoms?

Each child would undergo an individual risk assessment. Where a therapy intervention can be delivered virtually, this will be the preferred option. If it needs to be delivered face to face and it can safely delayed, sessions will be postponed until after a child has completed the period of quarantine. Where it is identified that it is unsafe to delay the intervention, appointments will continue with the therapist wearing full PPE (gloves, apron, mask).

Advice line questions

Who do I contact if I have concerns about a child or young person's therapy provision?

Please leave a message on our Advice Line 01992 823093 and a therapist will contact you. Calls are responded to by a therapist on weekdays.

What if I have additional queries about how therapies support for my child and/or school will be delivered?

Please leave a message on our Advice Line 01992 823093 and a therapist will contact you. Calls are responded to by a therapist on weekdays.