



Going to school ‘does not increase risk of young children catching coronavirus’

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Children going to primary school or nursery are at no greater risk of picking up Covid-19 than those staying at home, according to the first results of a national surveillance programme.

Public Health England said that it had picked up only three positive cases — two staff and one pupil — out of more than 12,000 people tested in English primary and pre-schools in June and early July. All three were mild or asymptomatic, and researchers found no additional cases when their households, class bubbles and wider schools were tested.

The results were seized upon by the government as part of its efforts to reassure parents that schools are safe [...]

Gavin Williamson, the education secretary, said: “I am hugely encouraged by the findings of this report, which support what the UK’s chief medical officers have already made clear — that the risk of catching coronavirus at school is low, meaning that the risk to children being out of school is, in fact, far greater.”

Initial evidence suggests that parents have been happy to send their children back to school. The National Association of Headteachers said yesterday that most schools had pupil and staff attendance of between 91 and 100 per cent on their first day back [...]

Shamez Ladhani, consultant epidemiologist at Public Health England, said: “As has been found in previous research, infection within educational settings is extremely low, and while it appears that children do contract Covid-19, the overwhelming majority experience mild or no symptoms, and are unlikely to pass it on.”

[Paragraphs that reference Secondary School and other information not relevant to parents of primary school children have been deleted from the text above. The full article can be [found here](#).]