**Covid19: Guidance for schools on protecting staff and children from Coronavirus**

**Introduction**

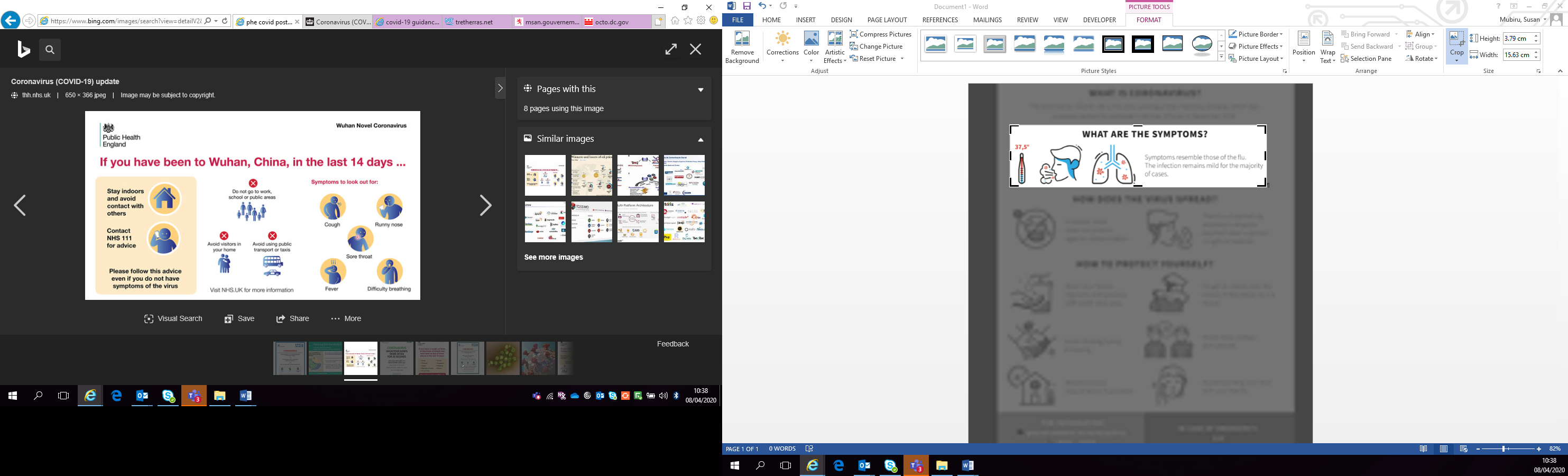
This guidance is for schools that have remained open to support the children of key workers and children who are classified as vulnerable as defined in the [Government guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings#qa).

**What is Covid19?**

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

* **new continuous cough and/or**
* **high temperature**

The **risk of Covid19 in education settings is low** due to the small number of children that will continue to attend. It is important that **everyone follows good hygiene practices at all times**.



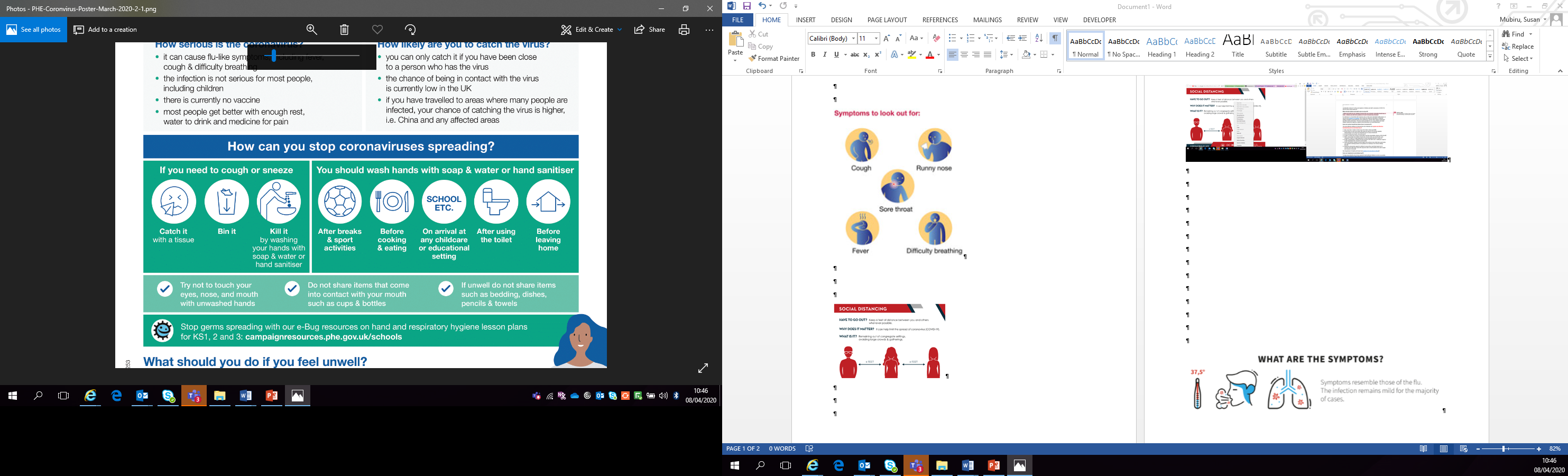
**When should children and staff come to school?**

The following children and staff should stay at home:

* Children and staff who are [‘shielding](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)’,
* Children and staff with symptoms of COVID-19
* A child who lives in a household with someone who is shielding and is unable to socially distance.

**How can I protect myself and others from Coronavirus?**

The most effective methods of reducing the risk of infection are **regular and effective handwashing and social distancing**.



See Department of Health and Social Care [guidance for educational settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19)

**Tips on social distancing?**

* Restrict entry to the education or childcare setting for anyone displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)​
* Consider transport to and from the education or childcare setting, and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport​
* Routinely consider staff to child ratios and maintain small class sizes​
* Stagger break times, and pupil movements around the school, to reduce large groups of children gathering​
* Discourage parents from gathering at school gates​
* See guidance on [Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings#qa) for practical tips on social distancing and infection control

**When social distancing is not possible?**

* Implement the recommended measures as far as practicable​
* Emphasise handwashing before and after supporting children who need help.
* Avoid sharing of food, drink, utensils, equipment and toys as well as clean and disinfect more frequently.

See guidance on [Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings#qa) or practical tips on social distancing and infection control.

**Do I need to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?**

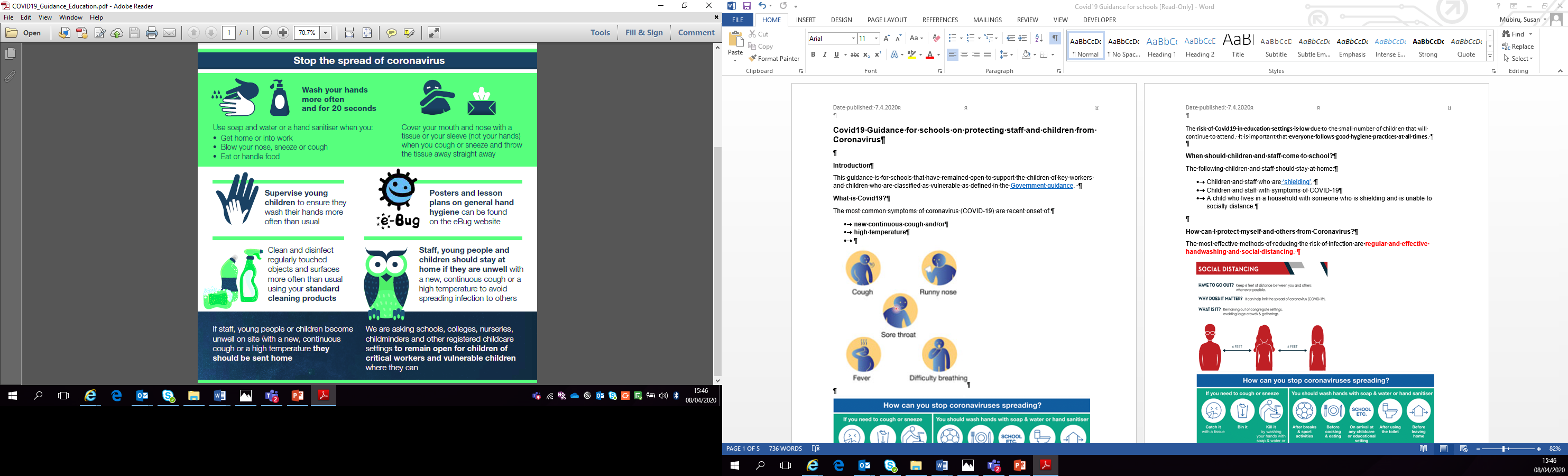
Not everyone needs PPE to carry out their roles safely, at present use of PPE is not recommended within educational settings.

Handwashing, social distancing, and catching coughs and sneezes are the most important measures to prevent infection control.

Government recommends PPE use for COVID-19 infection prevention only when someone in has symptoms of COVID19 and you cannot remain at a safe distance of 2 metres (6 feet) and/or someone is shielding because they are extremely vulnerable.

**The Government will shortly publish advice for schools with children with complex needs.**

**Resources**



**Relevant Guidance**

**Guidance for educational settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

**Implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

**Cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

**Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

**How to protect extremely vulnerable people (shielding):**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

**Self-isolation guidance for suspected coronavirus:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

**Guidance for employers and businesses:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>