

Roy

Briefing: Letting children back to school

September 2020

Summary

It's not possible to re-open society in a risk-free way. Therefore, we need to approach the reopening of schools in terms of balancing risk. We know that children themselves are not at high risk from COVID-19, but they are severely affected in health terms by absence from school.

The evidence shows that reopening schools is one of the less risky things we can do in terms of 'returning to normal'. The available evidence shows there is little evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in education settings. There does, however, need to be plans in place to mitigate risks to broader society. It's essential that we have infection control, low community transmission, and a functioning test and trace system that is integrated with local health systems.

Schools are a place where children receive routine vaccinations. Influenza vaccinations are largely delivered through primary schools as well as a range of other vaccinations including booster
