

COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents / carers

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a PCR test • Inform school immediately about test results • School should provide remote learning if appropriate 	.. if the child's test comes back negative provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to school, and feel well
my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from symptoms* starting (or from day of test if no symptoms. If child develop symptoms, within isolation period, start a new isolation period from the day symptoms start) • Inform school immediately about test results • For the household members see "somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19" • School should provide remote learning if appropriate 	.. after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free for at least 48 hours or child can take an LFD test from 6 days after the start of symptoms (or day of test), and another LFD test at 24 hours later. If both test results are negative, and has been fever-free for 48 hours, isolation may end after second test. They can return to school even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone
somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person with symptoms isolates and should get a PCR test • Household contacts must isolate unless they are exempt** 	.. your child can attend school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms*
somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person who has tested positive must self-isolate for at least 10 days from symptoms* starting (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Household members, must isolate and go for a PCR test, unless exempt** (under age 5 should also get a PCR) • If exempt, are advised to take a LFD test daily for 7 days and continue to attend as normal, unless they have a positive test result 	.. your child can attend school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms* and have not tested positive

*Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

** Exempt. Adults who are fully vaccinated (14 days have passed since receiving the full recommended dose). Or aged under 18 years and 6months or taking part in a covid-19 vaccine trial, are not required to isolate but are strongly advised to take daily LFD for 7days if over aged 5 years.

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
<p>my child has been identified as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 case who is not a household member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 5-18 years and 6 months are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend as normal, unless they have a positive test result. • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless also a non exempt** close contact of the same individual. 	<p>your child can attend school if they don't have COVID-19 symptoms* and have not tested positive</p>
<p>we / my child has travelled from abroad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider quarantine requirements and Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Depending on where you are travelling to and from, there may be a requirement for you and your child to isolate and/ or test.</p> <p>For full guidance on travel advice, please visit: gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers</p>	
<p>my child was shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shielding has been paused and all children have been removed from the shielding list and are advised to follow the same guidance as everyone else • Child should attend school unless advised otherwise by a medical consultant 	
<p>I am not sure who should get a test for COVID - 19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with symptoms* and those who have been in close contact with a confirmed case and are not exempt** need to take a PCR test • People without symptoms and are secondary school age or over are advised to regularly (twice a week) take a LFD test 	<p>As per the information in relevant scenario above</p>

COVID-19 testing

If anyone in your household has symptoms*, they should self-isolate immediately and book a free PCR test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

Taking rapid lateral flow tests twice a week is advised for all secondary school and college students and families / households with children of any age. Regular testing can help detect coronavirus when you don't have symptoms. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms and could be spreading the virus without knowing it. You can get the free tests from your **child's school or college**, pharmacies, online at [gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests). Or call 119.

Children are no longer required to wait 90 days post infection to re commence LFT testing in school.

For further information visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

Local Public Health and Health Protection Team will continue to work with local schools to manage and provide guidance with single and multiple cases of COVID-19