









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

| What to do if... | Action needed | Back to school... |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results | <p>...when child's test comes back negative and child is well enough</p> |
|  <p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school immediately about test results • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i> | <p>...when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours</p> <p>They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p> |
|  <p>...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Household member with symptoms should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results | <p>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</p> |
|  <p>...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i> | <p>...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days</p> |

* 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: ¹

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

| What to do if... | Action needed | Back to school... |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>...NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms* or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) – even if they test negative during those 14 days • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too | <p>...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p> |
|  <p>...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days – even if they test negative during those 14 days | <p>...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p> |
|  <p>...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team • Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again | <p>...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p> |
|  <p>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only people with symptoms* need to get a test • People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive | <p>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p> |

For further information:

gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net

gov.uk/backtoschool