

Covid-19 related student absence A quick reference guide for parents

What to do if	Action needed	Return to school
		when
My child has Covid-19 symptoms: HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means the child feels hot to touch on their chest or back and/or their temperature is above 38°C. A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH – this means coughing a lot longer than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything.	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us. Get a test to check if the child has coronavirus as soon as possible. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS The student must stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – they must only leave home to have a test. Anyone the child lives with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.	The test comes back negative.
My child tests positive for Covid-19.	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL CONTACT THE SCHOOL Follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. The child must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days. We will contact Public Health England for further advice – likelihood that Bubble isolates/remote learning.	They have completed their 10-day self-isolation. NB They may still have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks.
My child tests negative.	CONTACT THE SCHOOL Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day).	The test comes back negative.
My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	FOLLOW USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY PROCEDURE	If sickness/diarrhoea is the cause of absence, return after 48 hours of last bout.
Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact the school. The person who has symptoms should stay at home for 10 days from the day their symptoms started. All other household members should isolate as a household for 14 days even if they don't have symptoms themselves. Our advice is that the person and household members should get tested. NHS guidance states: "You do not need to get a test if you have no symptoms or if you have different symptoms." (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/) INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS	The test comes back negative.

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		when
Someone in my household tests positive for	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	The child has completed 14
Covid-19.	Contact the school.	days of isolation.
	The person who tests positive needs to stay at home	
	for 10 days from the day their symptoms started.	
	Everyone else in the household needs to stay at home	
	for 14 days from the day their household member's symptoms started. They should do this even if they	
	have no symptoms themselves.	
NHS test and trace has identified my child	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	The child has completed 14
has been in close contact with someone	CONTACT THE SCHOOL	days of isolation.
with symptoms of confirmed Covid-19.	The child needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the	
	day they were last in contact with the person – as it	
	can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear. They must not leave home for any reason, they must not	
	have visitors – except for essential care; they must try	
	to avoid contact with anyone they live with as much	
	as possible. People they live with do not need to self-	
	isolate if they do not have symptoms. Agree an	
	earliest date for possible return to school. Minimum of 14 days.	
We have/my child has travelled and there	Do not take unauthorised leave in term time.	The quarantine period of 14
is a need to self-isolate as a period of	Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice	days has been completed.
quarantine.	when booking travel.	
	If returning from a destination where quarantine is	
	needed, agree an earliest date for possible return to	
	school. Minimum of 14 days. Self-isolate the whole household.	
We have received medical advice that my	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	School inform you that
child must resume shielding.	CONTACT THE SCHOOL	restrictions have been lifted
	Shield until you are informed that restrictions are	and your child can return to
	lifted and shielding is paused again.	school.
My child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	School will inform you when
19 outbreak in school.	At home, support your child with remote education	the bubble will be re-
	provided by school. Your child will need to isolate for 14 days.	opened.
I, as a parent, develop Covid-19 symptoms	YOUR CHILD MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL	The test comes back
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Contact school to inform us.	negative.
	Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as	
	possible. Anyone you live with must self-isolate until	
	you've been tested and received your result. Anyone in your support bubble must self-isolate until you've	
	been tested and received your result.	
I, as a parent, test positive for Covid-19	YOUR CHILD MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL	The 14 day self-isolation
	Contact school to inform us.	period comes to an end.
	You must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when	
	your symptoms started – even if it means you're self-	
	isolating for longer than 14 days. Anyone you live with must self-isolate for 14 days from when your	
	symptoms started. Anyone in your support bubble	
	must self-isolate for 14 days from when your	
	symptoms started.	
When it's okay to send your child to school	As long as your child has not been in close contact	it's OK
or childcare	with someone who has the virus, it's usually okay to	
	send them to school or childcare if they: only have nasal symptoms, such as a runny	
	nose or a sneeze	
	 do not have a temperature of 38 degrees 	
	Celsius or more (as long as their	
	Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking	
	Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen)	
	Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen) do not have a new cough	
	Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen) do not have a new cough do not live with anyone who is unwell and	
	Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen) do not have a new cough	

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	coronavirus. Your GP will tell you when they can return to school or childcare. • have got a negative ('not detected') coronavirus test result and have not had symptoms for 48 hours • have not had diarrhoea for 48 hours	