









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 provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to school, and feel well</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 10 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 10 days</i> 	<p>...after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free 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 10 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 10 days</i> 	<p>...when child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 10 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. ¹

See more at: [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms](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 a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for 10 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) – even if they test negative during those 10 days • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too 	<p>...when the child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 10 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 10 days – even if they test negative during those 10 days 	<p>...when the quarantine period of 10 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 10 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>

If anyone in your household has symptoms*, book a free COVID-19 test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call [119](https://119.gov.uk)

For further information visit gov.uk/backtoschool