

COVID-19 ABSENCE

Updated:
March 2021

A quick guide for parents / carers

Please note: the first day of self-isolation is day 0. You must stay in isolation for the next 10 full days

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 test• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result• Inform school immediately about test result	... When child's test comes back negative and the child is well enough
... my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) using a lateral flow test (rapid test) and they don't have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the child was tested at school they should go home immediately• if the child tested at home they should inform school immediately about their test results• Child should have a confirmatory PCR test to confirm the result if they got a positive result from a rapid test (order online or call 119)• Whole household self-isolates for 10 days from day of test – even if someone tests negative during those 10 days	... after 10 days, as long as they haven't developed any symptoms. If they do develop symptoms, they need to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms*
... my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) and they have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child shouldn't attend school• Inform school immediately about test results• Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when any symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms)• Whole household self-isolates for 10 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) – even if someone tests negative during those 10 days	After 10 days, if the child's symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms they have are a cough or loss of smell or taste, which can last for several weeks.
...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child shouldn't attend school• Household member with symptoms should get a test• Whole household self-isolates for 10 days while waiting for test result• Inform school immediately about test results	... when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*

*symptoms includes at least one of the following: a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

See more at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)



What to do if...**Action needed****Back to school...**

... somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)

- Child shouldn't attend school
- Whole household self-isolates for 10 days - even if someone tests negative during those 10 days
- Day 0 is the day the first person in the household's symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if no symptoms)
- If the child develops symptoms whilst self-isolating, they should get tested, and if they test positive they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started

... when child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, as long as they are well

...NHS Test and Trace or your school/nursery has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms* or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)

- Child shouldn't attend school
- Child self-isolates for 10 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace, or your school / nursery) - 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
- If, during the isolation period, they develop symptoms or test positive they (and their household) will need to self-isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started or, if there are no symptoms, for 10 days from when they were tested

... when the child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 10 days

...we/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine

- From 15 February onwards, everyone allowed to enter England who has visited or passed through a country where travel to the UK is banned in the last 10 days must:
 - quarantine for 10 days in a managed quarantine hotel
 - take a coronavirus test on or before day two and on or after day eight of quarantining
 - Read more about international travel and how this operates ([gov.uk/uk-border-control/before-you-leave-for-the-uk](https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/before-you-leave-for-the-uk))
- 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

... when the quarantine period has been completed for the child (10 days)

Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:

- Child shouldn't attend school
- Day 0 of self-isolation is the day you arrive in the UK

What to do if...

Action needed

Back to school...

... we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding

- 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

... when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again

... I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)

There are two types of tests for COVID-19

For people who **don't have symptoms**:

- Simple and quick tests, known as lateral flow device (LFD) tests are used to test people, without the need for a laboratory. Children in secondary schools and colleges will be tested on site from 8 March and then issued with testing kits to use at home. If they test positive, then the child **and their close contacts** will be required to self-isolate for 10 days
- If any of the close contacts develop symptoms, they should stay at home and get tested
- If anyone tests positive whilst **not experiencing symptoms** but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms

For people who **have symptoms**, they should book a test online at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call **119**. The whole household should isolate for 10 days

... children who have tested negative and/ or who have no symptoms are able to attend school providing they are not isolating for any of the reasons set out above

For further information and support to self-isolate:
camden.gov.uk/coronavirus 020 7974 4444 (option 9)

