




# COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents/carers of children in school or college

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p>... my child has Covid-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Child should get a PCR test</li> <li>Advise school of reason for absence</li> <li>School should provide remote learning if appropriate</li> </ul>	<p><b>... if the child's test comes back negative</b> 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"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Child is advised to self-isolate for up to 10 days*** from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> <li>Inform school about test results when reporting absence</li> <li><b>**Household members are advised to take the following precautions:</b> Minimise contact with case if possible. Work from home if able to do so. Avoid contact with anyone who is at a higher risk of becoming severely unwell if infected. Limit close contact with other people outside the household. Wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces where you are in contact with other people. If you develop symptoms, isolate and take a PCR test. Follow this advice for 10days after the day the case started with symptoms</li> </ul>	<p><b>...after 10 days, or after two negative lateral flow tests taken on consecutive days on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> complete day of self isolation or later***</b></p> <p>They can return to school after 10 days (or 2 negative tests) even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone. Children must have been fever free for 48 hours and feel well before returning.</p>
 <p>...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household member with symptoms* isolates and should get a PCR test</li> <li>Household contacts advised to take precautions as above**</li> </ul>	<p><b>...your child can attend school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms*</b></p>






\*Symptoms include: a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms)

see overleaf for worked example of calculating isolation periods after a positive test

Isolation for cases lasts **at least 5 full days**



Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day zero is the day symptoms* started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero					Negative LFD 1	Negative LFD 2	You can leave self isolation on day 6 or later if you test negative 2 days in a row.			

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p><b>...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The person who has tested positive is advised to self-isolate for up to 10 days*** from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> <li>Household contacts are advised to take the precautions as above**</li> </ul>	<p><b>...your child can attend school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms* and have not tested positive</b></p> <p>Positive household members are advised not to drop off or collect children from school while self isolating</p>
 <p><b>...we / my child has travelled from abroad</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</li> <li>Consider FCO advice when booking travel and review this before departure and return</li> <li>Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Depending on where you are travelling to, there may be requirement for you and your child to be vaccinated, isolate and/ or test.</b></p> <p><b>For full guidance on travel advice, please visit:</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers">gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers</a></p>	
 <p><b>...my child was shielding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shielding has been paused, and there are no children who are currently considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19</li> <li>Child should attend school unless advised by a medical consultant this is an individual risk assessment</li> </ul>	
 <p><b>...I am not sure who should get a test for COVID - 19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People with symptoms*</li> </ul>	<p><b>...when conditions on previous page, as matching your situation, are met</b></p>
 <p><b>...I am not sure who shouldn't get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People have tested positive on a PCR test, should not test again for 90 days unless they develop new symptoms</li> </ul>	

**\*\*COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK. If anyone in your household has symptoms\*, book a free COVID-19 test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119. For further information visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)**