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

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What to do if…	Action needed	Back to school…
… my child has Covid-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	• Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a PCR test • Advise school of reason for absence • School should provide remote learning if appropriate	**… if the child's test comes back negative** provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to school, and feel well
…my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	• Child shouldn't attend school • Child is advised to self-isolate for up to 10 days*** from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school about test results when reporting absence • ****Household members are advised to take the following precautions:** 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	**…after 10 days, or after two negative lateral flow tests taken on consecutive days on the 5th and 6th** *complete* **day of self isolation or later***** 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.
…somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	• Household member with symptoms* isolates and should get a PCR test • Household contacts advised to take precautions as above**	**…your child can attend school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms***

*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

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

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…
…somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	• The person who has tested positive is advised to to self-isolate for up to 10 days*** from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Household contacts are advised to take the precautions as above**	**…your child can attend school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms* and have not tested positive** Positive household members are advised not to drop off or collect children from school while self isolating
…we / my child has travelled from abroad	• Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider FCO advice when booking travel and review this before departure and return • Provide information to school as per attendance policy **Depending on where you are travelling to, there may be requirement for you and your child to be vaccinated, isolate and/ or test.** **For full guidance on travel advice, please visit:** gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers	
…my child was shielding	• Shielding has been paused, and there are no children who are currently considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 • Child should attend school unless advised by a medical consultant this is an individual risk assessment	
…I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)	• People with symptoms*	**…when conditions on previous page, as matching your situation, are met**
…I am not sure who shouldn't get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)	• People have tested positive on a PCR test, should not test again for 90 days unless they develop new symptoms	

**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 or call 119. For further information visit gov.uk/backtoschool