COVID-19 (coronavirus absence: A quick guide for parent/carers



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 test Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result Inform school immediately about test results 	When child's test comes back negative
my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	 Child shouldn't attend school Child self-isolates or 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 14 days from day when symptoms * started (or from day test if no symptoms) – even if someone tests negative during those 14 days 	when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hrs 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.
somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	 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 result 	when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms
somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	 Child shouldn't attend school Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) – even if someone tests negative during those 14 days. 	when child has completed 14 days of self- isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days

*Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms

- A high temperature (37.8°C or above. If you don't have a thermometer, feeling hot to touch on your chest or back is a good indicator of a high temperature)
- A new continuous cough (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

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NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms * or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)	 Child should not attend school Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) – even if they test negative during those 14 days. Rest of the household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too. 	when the child has completed 14 days of self- isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days.
we/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	 Do not take unauthorised leave in term Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Provide information to school as per attendance policy Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed: 	when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days.
	 Child shouldn't attend school Whole household self-isolates for 14 days – even if they test negative during those 14 days 	
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 I paused again. 	when school/ other agencies inform you that restrictions have been listed and your child can return to school again
I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	 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. 	when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met