



Coronavirus-related pupil absence

A quick reference Guide

September 2020 What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
A child has coronavirus symptoms; e.g. high temperature, continuous cough, or loss of taste and smell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Self-isolate the whole household • Get a test • Inform the school immediately about the test result 	...the test comes back negative, or a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well
A child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Agree an earliest date for possible return (10 days min) • Self-isolate the whole household 	...10 days have passed since symptoms began (even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks), and the child feels well
A child tests negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the school • Discuss when the child can come back (same day/next day) 	...the test comes back negative
A child is ill with vomiting and diarrhoea or norovirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Ring on each day of illness 	...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
Someone in a household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Self-isolate the whole household • Household member to get a test Inform school immediately about test result 	...the test comes back negative
Someone in a household tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Agree an earliest date for possible return (14 days min) • Self-isolate the whole household 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation



NHS Test and Trace has identified a child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Agree an earliest date for possible return (14 days min) 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation
NHS Test and Trace has identified a household member (other than a child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	The household member must self-isolate for 14 days Child can continue to attend school	...child can continue to attend school
A sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days • Child(ren) at your school can continue to attend 	...child can continue to attend school
A child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is not on the exempt list of countries	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled • Inform the school and agree an earliest date for possible return to school • Self-isolate the whole household <p><u>*Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)</u> for up to date travel information</p>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
A child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is on the exempt list of countries	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is not needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the current <u>exempt countries and territories list</u> to confirm the country is on the exempt list • Inform the school on return to the UK and agree a return date 	...school is happy that the country is on the exempt list and there are no symptoms of coronavirus



A household member has travelled from a country that requires quarantine (but a child didn't travel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As long as the household member has not had symptoms in the last 14 days, the child can continue to attend school • The person who has travelled must not leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs 	...child can continue to attend school
Family has received medical advice that a child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Shield until restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	...restrictions have been lifted or medical advice has been received that the child may return to school
A child's bubble is closed due to a coronavirus outbreak in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • That child will need to self-isolate for 14 days • Other siblings may continue to attend school 	...once the bubble is reopened
I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms	<p>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • The child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days • Anyone in the support bubble must also stay at home 	.the child has completed 14 days of isolation

More information on actions for schools can be found on the [government website](#)

With thanks to Colbourne School, Birmingham, for sharing this resource.