









# COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents / carers

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p><b>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</b></p>	<p>Child should get a test</p> <p>Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</p> <p>Inform school immediately about test results</p>	<p><b>...when 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><b>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<p>Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</p> <p>Inform school immediately about test results</p> <p>Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i></p>	<p><b>...after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free for at least 48 hours</b></p> <p>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.</p>
 <p><b>...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</b></p>	<p>Household member with symptoms should get a test</p> <p>Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</p> <p>Inform school immediately about test results</p>	<p><b>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</b></p>
 <p><b>...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<p>Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i></p>	<p><b>...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days</b></p>

Symptoms include at least one of 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)

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p><b>...NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case</b></p>	<p>Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) even if they test negative during those 14 days</p> <p>Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless</p>	<p><b>...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</b></p>
 <p><b>...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</b></p>	<p>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</p> <p>Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</p> <p>Provide information to school as per attendance policy</p> <p><b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</b></p> <p>Whole household self-isolates for 14 days even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>	<p><b>...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</b></p>
 <p><b>...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</b></p>	<p>Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</p> <p>Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</p>	<p><b>...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</b></p>
 <p><b>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</b></p>	<p>Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</p> <p>People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even someone who tests positive</p>	<p><b>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</b></p>

**If anyone in your household has symptoms\*, book a free COVID-19 test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call [119](https://119.gov.uk)**

**For further information visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://gov.uk/backtoschool)**