



Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence – Reference Guide for Parents/Carers – Update Jan 2022

This document has been produced to help parents/carers access information quickly, but should be read in conjunction with national guidance for self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
<p>My child has Covid-19 symptoms including any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new continuous cough • A high temperature • A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not send your child to school • Inform the school • Order an immediate confirmatory PCR test • Self-isolate any members of the household who are not fully vaccinated and are over the age of 18 years and 6 months 	<p>The PCR test comes back negative, and your child feels well enough to return to school.</p> <p>OR:</p> <p>The PCR test comes back POSITIVE: return after 10 days following the date on which symptoms first began, AND your child feels well again. At parents' discretion, this period can be reduced so that the child may return on day 8 provided they take two lateral flow tests, 24hrs apart, which are both negative AND your child feels well. The first LFD test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period (see flow chart on last page).</p>
<p>My child tests positive for Covid-19 on an LFD (lateral flow device)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not send your child to school • Inform the school • Order an immediate confirmatory PCR test and inform the school immediately you receive the results • Self-isolate any members of the household who are not fully vaccinated and are over the age of 18 years and 6 months 	<p>The confirmatory PCR test comes back NEGATIVE, and your child feels well.</p> <p>OR:</p> <p>The PCR test comes back POSITIVE: return after 10 days have passed following the date of the first LFD test (or following the date that symptoms began if they were symptomatic prior to taking the LFD test) AND your child feels well. At parents' discretion, this period can be reduced so that the child may return on day 8 provided they take two lateral flow tests, 24hrs apart, which are both negative AND your child feels well. The first LFD test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period (see flow chart on last page).</p>
<p>My child tests positive for Covid-19 on a PCR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not send your child to school • Inform the school, including the earliest date of return • Self-isolate any members of the household who are not fully vaccinated and who are over the age of 18 years and 6 months 	<p>Return after 10 days have passed following the date of the PCR test (or following the date that symptoms began, if they were symptomatic prior to taking the PCR test), AND your child feels well. At parents' discretion, this period can be reduced so that the child may return on day 8 provided they take two lateral flow tests, 24hrs apart, which are both negative AND your child feels well. The first LFD test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period (see flow chart on last page).</p>
<p>Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 on an LFD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household member with positive result/symptoms to self-isolate and order an immediate PCR test • Self-isolate any members of the household who are not fully vaccinated and who are over the age of 18 years and 6 months 	<p>Child should continue to attend school providing they have no symptoms themselves.</p> <p>(Monitor your child for any symptoms – please note that children with Covid-19 may display mild symptoms such as a headache/runny nose/sore throat/sneezing).</p>

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
Someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19 on a PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household member to self-isolate • Self-isolate any members of the household who are not fully vaccinated and who are over the age of 18 years and 6 months 	<p>Children aged 5yrs and above who are close contacts with a confirmed case of Covid-19 should take daily lateral flow tests for 7 days. They may continue to attend school providing these tests are negative and they show no symptoms themselves. (Monitor them for any symptoms – as above).</p> <p>If the child is not yet 5, daily LFD testing is not advised. Parents should limit the child’s contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible. The child can continue to attend school while waiting for the PCR result providing they have no symptoms.</p>
NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Test and Trace will give instructions on whether daily lateral flow tests or PCR test is needed and what other measures should be taken to minimise risks. • Child can continue to attend school provided test and trace advice is followed. 	<p>Follow the advice as above for household close contacts.</p> <p>(Monitor your child for any symptoms – please note that children with Covid-19 may display mild symptoms such as a headache/runny nose/sore throat/sneezing).</p>
NHS Test and Trace has identified a household member/s as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The household member/s must self-isolate if instructed by NHS Test and Trace (if over 18 years 6mths and not double vaccinated) and follow their guidance re: Covid testing 	<p>Child should continue to attend school</p>
My child is ill with cold-like symptoms: for example, headache, runny nose, sore throat etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home and inform the school. • Monitor your child carefully for symptoms. If they have a temperature, a cough develops or their sense of taste/smell changes, they must self isolate and take a PCR test. • If they are well enough for school, and symptoms are not getting worse, consider use of LFDs as a precaution before they return to normal activities. 	<p>Child may attend school, providing they are feeling well. Parents of children aged 5yrs + may want to consider the use of LFDs as a precaution, even if the child has not been a known close contact of a positive Covid case.</p> <p>Please note that if a child develops a new cough or has a high temperature at school, they will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days OR until they receive a negative PCR result.</p>
My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19 but could be contagious (for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to inform us on the first day by phone, email or via 	<p>After 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy) or when feeling well if not sickness related.</p>

example sickness, diarrhoea) or is too ill to come to school.	StudyBugs • Keep us updated regarding the absence.	
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You can view the full NHS guidance on when to self-isolate and what to do at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>.

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result

