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

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<th>What to do if...</th>
<th>Action needed</th>
<th>Back to school...</th>
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</table>
| ...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 (if child no longer has symptoms and is well) |
| ...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) | • Child shouldn’t attend school  
• Child self-isolates for 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 of test if no symptoms) - even if someone else tests negative during those 14 days | ...when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours  
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 results | ...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 else tests negative during those 14 days | ...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days |

* 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: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/
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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 shouldn’t 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 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 time  
• Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel  
• Provide information to school as per attendance policy | ...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days |
| Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed: | • 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 is paused again | ...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted 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 |

For further information: gov.uk/backtoschool