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

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What to do if…	Action needed	Back to education & childcare
…my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	• Child shouldn't attend education / childcare settings • Child should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform education / childcare setting immediately about test results	**…when child's test comes back negative** provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to education or childcare, and feel well
…my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	• Child shouldn't attend education / childcare settings • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform education / childcare settings 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 tests negative during those 14 days*	**…after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free for at least 48 hours** They can return to education or childcare 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 education / childcare settings • Household member with symptoms should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform education / childcare settings 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 setting • 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**

What to do if…	Action needed	Back to education & childcare
…NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with COVID-19 (coronavirus)	• Child shouldn't attend education / childcare settings • 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 education / childcare settings as per attendance policy **Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:** • Child shouldn't attend education / childcare settings • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days – even if they test negative during those 14 days	**…when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, 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 education / childcare settings • 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 education or childcare setting / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to the setting 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**

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.

If anyone in your household has symptoms, book a free COVID-19 test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

For further information and support visit ….

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