

## Coronavirus-related pupil absence

A quick reference guide for schools

September 2020

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
A child has coronavirus symptoms: i.e. high temperature, continuous cough, or loss of taste and smell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• Inform the school</li> <li>• Self-isolate the whole household</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get a test</a></li> <li>• Inform the school immediately about the test result</li> <li>• Visit the <a href="#">NHS website</a> for more information</li> </ul>	...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"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• Inform the school</li> <li>• Agree an earliest date for possible return (10 days min)</li> <li>• Self-isolate the whole household and follow <a href="#">self-isolation guidelines</a></li> </ul>	...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"> <li>• Inform the school</li> <li>• Discuss when the child can come back (same day/next day)</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative
A child is ill with symptoms not linked to coronavirus: e.g. sore throat, earache, stomach ache, runny nose, skin rashes, or norovirus with vomiting and diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check online health condition advice – <a href="#">is my child too ill to go to school</a></li> <li>• Refer to the school's attendance policy</li> </ul>	...when it is safe to do so in line with medical advice via <a href="#">is my child too ill to go to school</a> and the school's attendance policy
Someone in a household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• Inform the school</li> <li>• Self-isolate the whole household</li> <li>• Household member to <a href="#">get a test</a></li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> <li>• Visit the <a href="#">NHS website</a> for more information</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative or after the correct period of isolation



Someone in a household tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li><li>• Inform the school</li><li>• Agree an earliest date for possible return (14 days min)</li><li>• Self-isolate the whole household and follow <a href="#">self-isolation guidelines</a></li></ul>	...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"><li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li><li>• Inform the school</li><li>• Agree an earliest date for possible return (14 days min)</li><li>• Visit <a href="#">NHS Test and Trace page</a> for more information</li></ul>	...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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The household member must self-isolate for 14 days</li><li>• Child can continue to attend school</li><li>• Visit <a href="#">NHS Test and Trace page</a> for more information</li></ul>	...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"><li>• Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days and follow <a href="#">self-isolation guidelines</a></li><li>• Child(ren) at your school can continue to attend</li></ul>	...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"><li>• Minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled</li><li>• Inform the school and agree an earliest date for possible return to school</li><li>• Self-isolate the whole household</li></ul> <p>*<a href="#">Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office (FCDO)</a> for up to date travel information</p>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed

<p>A child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is on the exempt list of countries</p>	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is not needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the current <a href="#">exempt countries and territories list</a> to confirm the country is on the exempt list</li> <li>• Inform the school on return to the UK and agree a return date</li> </ul>	<p>... school is happy that the country is on the exempt list and there are no symptoms of coronavirus</p>
<p>A household member has travelled from a country that requires quarantine (but a child didn't travel)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As long as the household member has not had symptoms in the last 14 days, the child can continue to attend school</li> <li>• The person who has travelled must not leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs</li> <li>• Follow the <a href="#">guidelines for travelling into the UK</a></li> </ul>	<p>...child can continue to attend school</p>
<p>Family has received medical advice that a child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• Inform the school</li> <li>• Shield until restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<p>...restrictions have been lifted or medical advice has been received that the child may return to school</p>
<p>A child's bubble is closed due to a coronavirus outbreak in school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• That child will need to self-isolate for 14 days and follow <a href="#">self-isolation guidelines</a></li> <li>• Other siblings may continue to attend school</li> </ul>	<p>...once the bubble is reopened</p>
<p>I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms</p>	<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"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• The child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days</li> <li>• Anyone in the support bubble must also stay at home</li> </ul>	<p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>

The latest NHS information and advice about coronavirus can be found on the [NHS website](#)

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

Information for families, as well as details on where to go for further advice and support, can be found on Portsmouth City Council's website: [portsmouth.gov.uk/welcomeback](https://portsmouth.gov.uk/welcomeback).