

## What are the symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- Loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Children may also display gastrointestinal symptoms

### **Should a child/staff member come to school if a member of their household is unwell?**

No. If a member of the child's household is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms then the child/staff member should isolate for 14 days starting from the day the household member(s) became ill. If the child subsequently develops symptoms than they should isolate for 10 days from the date they developed symptoms. See [Stay-at-home-guidance](#). **The household member(s) should be tested within 5 days of symptom onset. If all symptomatic household members test negative, the child/staff member can return to work.**

### **If I am notified by a parent that their child is ill do I need to exclude the other children in their class?**

No, classmates and staff can attend school as normal. The child who is ill should stay at home ([Stay-at-home-guidance](#)) and be advised to get tested. If the child has any siblings who attend the school, they should also be self-isolating at home for 14 days. If the child tests positive for COVID-19, direct and proximity contacts should be excluded for 14 days. The school will be contacted by contact tracers to support with contact identification and provision of advice

### **Can the siblings of a child who has been excluded because they are a contact of a case attend school?**

Yes, other household members of the contact do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms

### **A child/parent reports to us that they have had contact with someone with symptoms – what should we do?**

There is no action required of the school. No one with symptoms should be attending school and anyone who develops symptoms while at school should be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Schools should regularly remind parents of the government guidance on staying at home and the importance of a household self-isolating if anyone in the household develops symptoms.

### **If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, gets tested and tests negative, can they return to school even if they still have symptoms?**

If the child is NOT a known contact of a confirmed case the child can return to school if the result is negative, provided they feel well and they have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If the child is a contact of a confirmed case they must stay off school for the 14 day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point up to day 14 (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if a child tests negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection.

**If a child who was a contact of a confirmed case tests negative, can they return to school?**

No, the child should complete 14 days of isolation.

**Does a child need to have a negative test before they can return to school?**

No, schools should not request evidence of a negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children after a period of self-isolation and the child is fever free for 48 hours.

If the child is a contact of a confirmed case they must stay off school for the 14 day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point up to day 14 (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if a child tests negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection.

**If a child who was a contact of a confirmed case tests negative, can they return to school?**

No, the child should complete 14 days of isolation.

**Does a child need to have a negative test before they can return to school?**

No, schools should not request evidence of a negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children after a period of self-isolation and the child is fever free for 48 hours.

## Testing

**How can a parent arrange testing?**

The parent can arrange for any child to be tested via [NHS UK](#) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access.

**Will the school be informed of any test results?**

The school will be informed if a child or staff member tests positive as part of NHS Test and Trace. The school will not be informed of any negative results.

**Can they be tested if they do not have symptoms?**

No. People should only be tested if they have symptoms