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

Insert relevant logo

What to do if	Action needed	Back to setting
my child has COVID- 19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	 Child shouldn't attend setting Child should get a test Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result Inform setting immediately about test results 	when child's test comes back negative and child is well enough
my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	 Child shouldn't attend setting Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) Inform setting 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 	when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours They can return to setting 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 setting Household member with symptoms should get a test Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result Inform setting immediately about test results 	when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*
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

^{*} 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:

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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 setting 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 setting as per attendance policy Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed: Child shouldn't attend setting 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 setting Contact setting as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	when setting / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to 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