

COVID-19 RELATED PUPIL ABSENCE

A quick reference guide for parents, carers and staff
Updated: 21st September 2020

DEFINITIONS OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Please read these definitions through carefully.

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH MEANS:

- you are coughing a lot for more than 1 hour



OR

- you have been coughing a lot 3 or more times in 24 hours
- if you normally have a cough, it may be worse than usual.



The coronavirus cough is a dry cough. This means it does not produce any phlegm or mucus (so you do not cough anything up like you would with a chesty cough).

If you have a chest condition you may already cough. If you have symptoms of coronavirus, you may have a cough that is different from your normal cough, or your normal cough may feel worse than usual.

WHAT TO DO:

- rest
- drink lots of fluids



A HIGH TEMPERATURE OR FEVER

A high temperature or fever is a normal way for your body to fight infection.

This is because the increase in body temperature makes it harder for viruses and bacteria to survive.



You do not need to take your temperature to know you have a fever.

If you do have a thermometer however, a fever is when your temperature is 37.8C or higher.



A THIRD COMMON SYMPTOM OF CORONAVIRUS IS A LOSS OF, OR CHANGE IN, SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE (ANOSMIA).



If your child has any of these of signs of COVID19 do not send them into school.

- Book a test if your child is displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- Provide details of anyone you or your child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, **do not send your child into school.**

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If your child shows signs of COVID-19 in School- they will need to leave the school straight away

Your child will be self isolated in the medical room next to the School Office. A member of staff wearing full PPE will ensure your child is comfortable and safe.

Parents will be contacted and you will need to immediately collect your child from the premises.

You will then have to follow the self-isolation and test procedures as above.

Covid-19 Test Result

Please inform the school immediately of the results of a test:

If the test result is negative:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating.

They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If the test result is positive:

- if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in school

Once we have a confirmed case of COVID 19 we will contact the local health trust and follow their instructions in terms of communicating information with the school community.

They will dictate whether bubbles need to be sent home for self-isolation and testing. In the event of a local outbreak, the PHE health protection team or local authority may advise the school to close temporarily to help control transmission.

Home Learning for children self –isolating

We will provide those pupils self-isolating with home learning work and tasks. Work will be available soon on the school website for different year groups to access when self-isolating. In the meantime, please contact the School Office if your child is isolating and they need home learning work.