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

What to do if…	Action needed	Back to the setting…
…my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	• Child shouldn't attend the setting; • Child should get a test; • Whole household self isolates while waiting for test result; • Inform the setting immediately about test results.	**…when child's test comes back negative**
…my child tests positive for COVID -19 (coronavirus)	• Child shouldn't attend the setting; • Child self isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms); • Inform the 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 the 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 the setting; • Household member with symptoms should get a test; • Whole household self isolates while waiting for test result; • Inform the setting 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 the 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**

* Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms:

- A high temperature (37.8 C or above. If you don't have a thermometer, feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back is a good indicator of a high temperature);
- A new, continuous cough (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

What to do if…	Action needed	Back to the setting…
...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 the 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 the setting as per attendance policy. **Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:** • Child shouldn't attend school; • 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 the setting; • 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 school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school 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**

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For further information: gov.uk/backtoschool