

"...from little rivers mighty oceans grow!"

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Covid-19 Symptoms, Actions and Testing Information

I am writing today to ensure that all parents and carers have clarity about Coronavirus Covid-19 symptoms and what to do if someone in your family is symptomatic.

What are the symptoms?

Coronavirus Covid-19 symptoms are currently defined (link to NHS website) as follows:

High temperature	The NHS website defines a high temperature as being 38 degrees or above. This is sometimes called a fever. Your child may have a high temperature if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel hotter than usual to touch on the forehead, back or tummy • Feel sweaty or clammy • Have red cheeks You can use a digital thermometer, which can be bought from pharmacies, supermarkets or online, to take your child's temperature. The NHS has separate (but similar) advice on high temperatures for adults.
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	This means you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different from normal.

If any member of the school community becomes symptomatic during their time at school, they will be cared for in an isolated area until they can leave the premises. It is imperative that parents and carers collect children as a matter of utmost urgency if we ring to say their child has become symptomatic at school.

What happens next?

The symptomatic person should:

- follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed Coronavirus Covid-19 infection'
- self-isolate for at least 10 days and until well (including no fever for 48 hours). The result of the test may change this isolation period (more information below)
- arrange to have a test

Other members of their household (including any siblings) should:

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- self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. The result of the test may change this isolation period (see below)
- arrange to have a test if they develop symptoms themselves

Tests can be booked online through the online portal or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers have priority access to testing. School does have access to some home testing kits that can be given directly to parents/carers but these would only be used in circumstances where other testing routes cannot be followed.

School should always be informed of the test result (positive or negative) as soon as possible after it has been received.

What happens for others who are in the child’s bubble (or have otherwise had close contact with them) at school?

Until a Coronavirus Covid-19 case is confirmed, people who have had close contact (e.g. within their bubble) with a symptomatic person should continue their life in school as normal.

If more than one person within the same bubble becomes symptomatic before any one case is confirmed, we will seek advice from the Local Authority and from Public Health England and communicate any key messages and actions to parents and carers.

If a case is confirmed, we will be in touch with advice for all members within the person’s “bubble” following consultation with Public Health England.

What happens if the test comes back negative?

If the person with symptoms tests negative for Coronavirus Covid-19, they are allowed to return to school if they are well, including not having a temperature for 48 hours and all in their household who have Covid-19 symptoms have also tested negative. Their household can also stop isolating if those criteria are met.

What happens if the test comes back positive?

Follow ‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed Coronavirus Covid-19 infection’ and continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they are well (and have not had a high temperature for 48 hours) – note that symptoms of a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste may persist, as they can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill.

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

What if someone in my child’s household other than them is symptomatic?

The child will need to self-isolate, as per the guidance above, for 14 days from the onset of symptoms for the affected person. You will need to arrange a test for them if they themselves develop symptoms. The period of self-isolation can be reduced if the person with symptoms receives a negative test result and 48 hours have passed since the symptoms were present. At this point your child can return to school but we would ask you to communicate with us about this before they do so.

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What if someone in my child’s household other than them has a confirmed case of Coronavirus Covid-19?

The child will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the onset of the symptoms for the person who has tested positive for the infection. You will need to arrange a test for them if they develop symptoms themselves.

What if someone else my child has been in close contact with outside of school becomes symptomatic?

There is no need for your child to self-isolate in this instance unless you have been advised otherwise by an appropriate body (in which case you should communicate this to school). You should make sure you are aware of Coronavirus Covid-19 symptoms and keep a close eye on your child’s health.

What if someone else my child has been in close contact with outside of school has a confirmed case of Coronavirus Covid-19?

Your child will need to self-isolate at this point and, depending on the circumstances where they have had contact with the person with the confirmed case, this advice may well be directly given to you by an appropriate body. If your child needs to self-isolate in these circumstances, please inform school immediately.

The period of self-isolation would be 14 days from when they had contact with the person. Your child would not be eligible for a test unless they themselves displayed symptoms. In this instance, nobody else in your household would need to self-isolate unless they became symptomatic.

What if I’m worried about my child’s attendance rate at school?

No absence from school due to Coronavirus Covid-19 will be unauthorised or considered a concern in terms of low attendance.

What if my situation is unusual?

Life does not always fit neatly into the options laid out in lists of “Frequently Asked Questions” and it is very likely that we will come across new, different and challenging situations in the coming days and weeks. Please do get in touch regarding anything you would like our opinion or advice on and we will always do our best to help.

Yours sincerely,



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