

Coronavirus-related pupil absence

A quick reference guide schools

September 2020

| What to do if... | Action needed | Return to school when... |
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| A child has coronavirus symptoms: e.g. high temperature, continuous cough, or loss of taste and smell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Self-isolate the whole household • Get a test • Inform the school immediately about the test result | ...the test comes back negative, or a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well |
| A child tests positive for coronavirus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Agree an earliest date for possible return (10 days min) • Self-isolate the whole household | ...10 days have passed since symptoms began (even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks), and the child feels well |
| A child tests negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the school • Discuss when the child can come back (same day/next day) | ...the test comes back negative |
| A child is ill with symptoms not linked to coronavirus: e.g. sore throat, earache, stomach ache, runny nose, skin rashes, or norovirus with vomiting and diarrhoea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Ring on each day of illness | ...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy) |
| Someone in a household has coronavirus symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Self-isolate the whole household • Household member to get a test • Inform school immediately about test result | ...the test comes back negative |

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| <p>Someone in a household tests positive for coronavirus</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Agree an earliest date for possible return (14 days min) • Self-isolate the whole household | <p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation</p> |
| <p>NHS Test and Trace has identified a child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Agree an earliest date for possible return (14 days min) | <p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation</p> |
| <p>NHS Test and Trace has identified a household member (other than a child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The household member must self-isolate for 14 days • Child can continue to attend school | <p>...child can continue to attend school</p> |
| <p>A sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days • Child(ren) at your school can continue to attend | <p>...child can continue to attend school</p> |
| <p>A child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is not on the exempt list of countries</p> | <p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled • Inform the school and agree an earliest date for possible return to school • Self-isolate the whole household <p><u>*Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)</u> for up to date travel information</p> | <p>...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed</p> |

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| <p>A child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is on the exempt list of countries</p> | <p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is not needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the current <u>exempt countries and territories list</u> to confirm the country is on the exempt list • Inform the school on return to the UK and agree a return date | <p>... school is happy that the country is on the exempt list and there are no symptoms of coronavirus</p> |
| <p>A household member has travelled from a country that requires quarantine (but a child didn't travel)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As long as the household member has not had symptoms in the last 14 days, the child can continue to attend school • The person who has travelled must not leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs | <p>...child can continue to attend school</p> |
| <p>Family has received medical advice that a child must resume shielding</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Inform the school • Shield until restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again | <p>...restrictions have been lifted or medical advice has been received that the child may return to school</p> |
| <p>A child's bubble is closed due to a coronavirus outbreak in school</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • That child will need to self-isolate for 14 days • Other siblings may continue to attend school | <p>...once the bubble is reopened</p> |
| <p>I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms</p> | <p>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • The child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days • Anyone in the support bubble must also stay at home | <p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation</p> |

More information on actions for schools can be found on the [government website](#)

Information for families, as well as details on where to go for further advice and support, can be found on Portsmouth City Council's website: portsmouth.gov.uk/welcomeback.