

Covid-19 Guide for Parents and Carers

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, we need to minimise the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct risks to children are very low and every adult has been offered the vaccine.

This document provides information for parents and carers of children under the age of 18 years and 6 months who have –

- Developed symptoms of Covid-19
- Tested positive for Covid-19
- Been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 (overleaf)

START HERE:

Your child develops Covid-19 symptoms (a new, continuous cough, high temperature OR loss/change in taste/smell) or has had a positive lateral flow test:

Your child **should not come into school**

Your child should have a PCR test as soon as possible.

All positive lateral flow test results need to be confirmed with a **PCR test within 2 days** (during this period your child should continue to self-isolate). If you insist on your child attending nursery, school, or college when they have symptoms, they can take the decision to refuse your child if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff.

All symptomatic children need a PCR test (not a lateral flow test).

Information on booking a PCR test can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Should your child receive a **positive Covid-19 PCR test result** they –

- **MUST isolate for 10 days** from their first symptoms (or test date if asymptomatic) and **inform the school/setting**.
- Anyone who tests positive having taken a PCR test will still need to **self-isolate** regardless of age or vaccination status.
- Contact tracing is no longer undertaken by the school/setting so you may be contacted NHS Test and Trace/local Contact Tracing Teams to identify close contacts of your child

Should your child receive a **negative Covid-19 PCR test result**, their isolation period will end and they can return to school once they are feeling well and are fever free for 48 hours. *Please contact your child's school to inform them of this.*

START HERE:

Your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has recently tested positive for Covid-19:

- Parents/carers may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace/local Contact Tracing Teams to inform you that your child has been identified as a close contact.
- **In this instance children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months are not required to self-isolate and should continue to attend school as normal, but are advised to take a PCR test.**
- We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

To note –

- Children aged under 5 years are advised to take a PCR test only if they are a close contact of positive case within their own household.
- Close contacts should not have a PCR test within 90 days of a previous positive Covid-19 test unless they have symptoms.
- A close contact not identified by NHS Test and Trace/local teams but known by the school/setting to have been in close contact with the case, can be advised to access a free PCR test (*not whole classes in most cases*).

Regular Testing (secondary aged pupils only):

Continuing to take regular rapid LFD tests, twice per week, and reporting the results will help to identify infections early and reduce transmission.

Should you require any further information, please access the information sites below -
[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK](#)
(www.gov.uk)

NHS Advice on COVID-19 can be found at
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/