



# COVID related absences quick reference guide – Spring 2021

Updated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
<p>...my child is unwell with symptoms NOT LINKED to coronavirus, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ blocked or runny nose</li> <li>➤ sore throat</li> <li>➤ vomiting or diarrhoea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Follow the usual school absence policy</b></li> <li>• Contact the school on each day of your child's absence</li> </ul>	<p>...your child is well enough.</p> <p>In cases of gastro illness, wait 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.</p>
<p>...my child has coronavirus symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ High temperature</li> <li>➤ New continuous cough</li> <li>➤ Loss/change to senses of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate</li> <li>• Get a test – telephone NHS 119 or use <a href="#">online portal</a> to book</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<p>...the test comes back negative</p>
<p>...my child tests positive for coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<p>...your child feels better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste as long as they feel well enough (these symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone) Your child should continue to isolate after 10 days if they have any of these symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High temperature or feeling hot &amp; shivery</li> <li>• Runny nose or sneezing</li> <li>• Feeling or being sick</li> <li>• Diarrhoea</li> </ul> <p>If they have diarrhoea or are being sick they should stay at home for 48 hours after they have stopped.</p>
<p>...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ High temperature</li> <li>➤ New continuous cough</li> <li>➤ Loss/change to senses of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate</li> <li>• Household member to get a test– telephone NHS 119 or use <a href="#">online portal</a> to book</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<p>...the household member test is negative and nobody else in the household has symptoms</p>
<p>...somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>	<p>...your child has completed 10 days of self-isolation</p> <p>NB Gov.uk guidance states 'If you do not develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should not arrange a COVID-19 test'. This is because it can take several days for symptoms to appear and you will have to complete the 10 days self-isolation even if you have a negative test result.</p>
<p>...NHS test and trace have identified my child as a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> </ul>	<p>...your child has completed the recommended period of self-isolation</p>

'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed case of coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-isolate for 10 days</li> <li>• Follow any other instructions from NHS test &amp; trace</li> </ul>	(usually 10 days after their last contact with the confirmed case)
NHS test & trace has identified a household member (not my child) as a close contact of somebody with Covid19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person identified should isolate as advised by NHS test &amp; trace (usually 10 days)</li> <li>• Other household members do not need to self-isolate</li> </ul> <p>Please note: You could be fined if you do not stay at home after being notified by NHS Test &amp; Trace that you need to self-isolate.</p>	Your child does not need to miss school and should attend as normal.
One of my children has been sent home due to a positive test result for Covid19 within their school bubble.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The child in the closed bubble should not go to school.</b> Remote learning will be provided for the closed bubble as outlined in the school contingency plan.</li> <li>• <b>Other children not in the closed bubble may continue to attend school.</b></li> </ul>	School informs you that the bubble will reopen (usually after 10 days)
...we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<p><b>Due to National Lockdown restrictions, travel is only allowed where you first have a legally permitted reason to leave the house. All 'travel corridors' are currently suspended and holidays are not permitted.</b></p> <p>Full travel guidance can be found <a href="#">here</a></p>	
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school as agreed with SLT</b></li> <li>• Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	...you are informed that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.

**Rapid Lateral Flow Testing** This is a test for people who **DO NOT** have symptoms. If you are symptomatic, please book a PCR test [here](#). Households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils now have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing (please see below for explanations of childcare and support bubbles). Primary school pupils will not be asked to test at this time.

You may already have access to testing through your employer. If not, you have three options...

- 1. Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site** Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. The nearest site to our school is at Chessington Sports Centre. You can find full details [here](#).
- 2. Collect test kits.** You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go. You can find your nearest collection point [here](#)
- 3. Order home test kits online** If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. You can order lateral flow testing kits [here](#)

## **Childcare Bubbles**

A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered. Members of either household can provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care.

You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.

You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.

A childcare bubble is different to a support bubble. Being in a childcare bubble does not stop you from forming a support bubble if you are eligible.

You must avoid seeing members of your childcare and support bubbles at the same time.

## **Support Bubbles**

A support bubble is a support network which links 2 households. You have to meet certain eligibility rules to form a support bubble. This means not everyone will be able to form a support bubble. You can form a support bubble with another household of any size if:

- you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
- you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
- your household includes a child who is under the age of one or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5, or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- you are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults
- you are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020

You should not form a support bubble with a household that is part of another support bubble.

## **School/class bubbles**

Keeping children in consistent groups (or 'bubbles') within school form part of our system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID19 as set out in the DfE guidance for schools. Children who are part of the same household bubble outside of school will not mix during school time if they are in different school bubbles. Similarly, children who are in the same school bubble are not permitted to mix outside of school unless they are part of a household, childcare or support bubble.

The full guidance from Gov.uk – National Lockdown: Stay At Home can be found [here](#)