



## Coronavirus – Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions based on latest guidance from DFE, Gov.uk and PHE

### Pupils or Staff who have symptoms or have a confirmed case of Coronavirus.

**Symptoms** - An individual should **only seek a test if they have one or more of the main COVID symptoms** – a high temperature; a new, continuous cough and/or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste (or as directed to by a medical professional, at the request of a local council or as part of the government pilot project).

**The guidance is clear that if an individual has one or more of those symptoms then they must isolate (stay at home and don't have any visitors) and get a test as soon as possible. The rest of the household need to isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result.**

The NHS has provided explanations for each of the main symptoms, which can be found via this link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>.

### **Childhood illnesses**

If a child is unwell with other symptoms such as sore throat, earache, stomach ache, runny nose, skin rashes, then parents are advised to check NHS 111 online health condition advice – [is my child too ill to go to school](#), and contact their local pharmacy or GP if they need further help.

**NHS 111 phone line should only be used for an urgent medical problem where parents or carers are unsure what to do.** If a child is too ill to attend school, the parent or carer should advise the school as per normal and arrange to care for the child at home until they are well enough to return.

If your child requires Calpol for a cold, sore throat or earache etc we would ask that they remain at home until they have recovered. If they develop symptoms which could represent Covid-19 then a test should be arranged, and the family should self-isolate.

### **If a child or staff member has any of the following symptoms:**

- new, continuous cough and/or
- High Temperature (37.8 or above)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

They, and all members of their household, should begin to self-isolate. **They must not come to school.** The exact time the symptoms started and precisely what they are should be noted.

School should be informed using the usual reporting absence procedures. Please state what the symptoms are, when they started and whether or not a test has been arranged.

Parents of the pupil should arrange for them to be tested as soon as possible via nhs.uk or contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access. This would also apply to any parent or household member who develops symptoms and to any staff member. If help is required to arrange a test, please contact the school. The school will record all Covid related absence on a database, as required by public health. This will be confidential and securely stored.

No further action can be taken until the result of the test is known. If the test results come back negative, the child/staff member and members of the household can stop self-isolating, so long as they are symptom free and well-enough to attend.

### **If the result of the test is positive, the procedures in section 2 will apply.**

If other household members of pupils or staff display the symptoms above, then the same procedure should be in place, but obviously, the person with symptoms should be referred for testing.

If a child or member of staff develops symptoms while at school, they will be isolated until they can safely return home (see the school's main risk assessment) and then the above arrangements will apply.

## **SECTION 2**

**If the test result confirms that the child/ staff member has the virus:** The parent of the child/ the staff member should inform the Headteacher immediately or as soon as possible of any positive result. During school hours, please contact the school office by phone 01784 253310 or email [info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk)

### **How to inform the school of a confirmed Covid case outside of school hours/at weekends**

**Outside of school hours, please contact the school office immediately via the school email address: [info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk). Please make the subject header "Positive Case"**

**This email is currently being checked by the leadership team during evenings and weekends up until 9pm due to the Covid – 19 pandemic.**

Please leave a contact number with your email message should we need to speak to you directly. The Executive Headteacher or a senior leader will then contact PHE/local health protection team who will alert all close contacts\* of the confirmed case as soon as possible that they must begin a period of 14 day's self-isolation and inform them that they should not come to school the next day. Household members of close contacts (including siblings in other classes) do not need to self-isolate, unless the contact, or another household member develops symptoms (see section 1).

***\*Close contacts are likely to be all class members and year group members, including staff. The Executive headteacher/Heads of School will inform the DfE helpline and Public Health Teams (unless they are contacted first by a contact tracer) and will be assisted by them to ensure that all measures are correctly in place.***

If confirmation comes during the school day, parents of close contacts will be asked to pick up as soon as possible. Close contacts will stay in their area until they are safe to leave.

Public health will provide a standard letter for all close contacts to advise of the next steps and measures they must take.

**Please help keep our school community safe - follow social distancing rules  
Hands- Face- Space  
Thank You**

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions below for further clarification:

## Questions that have been asked this week:

### **Should a child/staff member come to school if a member of their household has symptoms?**

No. If a member of the child's household is unwell **with COVID-19 symptoms** then the child/staff member should isolate for 14 days starting from the day the household member(s) became ill. If the child subsequently develops symptoms, then they should isolate for 10 days from the date they developed symptoms. See [Stay-at-home-guidance](#). The household member(s) should be tested within 5 days of symptom onset. If all symptomatic household members test negative, the child/staff member can return to work.

### **If another child in the class has symptoms, does my child need to self-isolate?**

No, classmates and staff can attend school as normal. The child who is ill should stay at home ([Stay-at-home-guidance](#)) and be advised to get tested.

If the child has any siblings who attend the school, they should also be self-isolating at home for 14 days.

If the child tests positive for COVID-19, direct and proximity contacts should stay at home for 14 days. The school will be contacted by contact tracers to support with contact identification and provision of advice.

### **Will I be told if another child has symptoms?**

In line with the guidance from public health, **no**.

Most cases who are tested are negative.

This guidance has been designed to protect the public, while keeping everyday life operating as normally as possible.

Please refrain from speculating about possible cases particularly on class What's App groups or social media platforms– we promise to keep you fully informed within the guidelines.

### **If a child has had a positive test what happens to the other children in their class and who will be notified?**

The school should notify the local HPT/DfE helpline contact tracing hub. The health protection team/contact tracer will advise on identifying and ensuring contacts behave appropriately. This is very likely to include all members of the child's class or year group.

### **Who is considered a contact in a school setting?**

A person who maintained appropriate social distancing (over 2 metres) would not be classed as a contact.

A contact is defined as a person who has:

- had face-to-face contact (within one metre) with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), including: being coughed on, or having a face-to-face conversation, or having skin-to-skin physical contact,
- any contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or in a large vehicle near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

### **Which contacts need to self-isolate?**

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive and they had attended the school in the 48 hours prior to developing symptoms, direct and close contacts will be identified and advised. Please note: The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

### **Can the siblings of a child who is self-isolating because they are a contact of a case attend school?**

Yes, other household members of the contact do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms or directed to do so by the contact tracing team.

### **If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, gets tested and tests negative, can they return to school even if they still have symptoms?**

If the child is NOT a known contact of a confirmed case the child can return to school if the result is negative, **provided they feel well and they have not had a fever for 48 hours.** If the child is a contact of a confirmed case they must stay off school for the 14 day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point up to day 14 (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if a child tests negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection.

### **If a child who was a contact of a confirmed case tests negative, can they return to school?**

No, the child should complete 14 days of isolation. This is because of the incubation period of the virus, which can be up to 14 days.

### **If there is a confirmed case, does the school need to close?**

The school does not need to close on public health grounds. Schools will generally only need to close if they have staff shortages due to illness or being identified as contacts. It is expected that only the year group of a confirmed case will need to self-isolate at home. If there are a number of confirmed cases across different classes and year groups at the same time, then the school may be advised to close by the Health Protection Team in consultation with other partners.

### **How can a parent arrange testing?**

The parent can arrange for any child to be tested via [NHS UK](#) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access.

### **Will the school be informed of any test results?**

The school may be informed if a child or staff member tests positive as part of NHS Test and Trace. However, it is important that you also notify the school as soon as possible. The school will not be informed of any negative results.

### **How can a staff member get tested?**

All education and childcare workers can apply for a test if they are symptomatic via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

The Headteacher is also able to arrange priority testing for staff.

**Can anyone be tested if they do not have symptoms?** No. People should only be tested if they have symptoms.