

FAQs for parents about COVID testing and schools

My child has a bit of a cold. Should I send them into school?

If your child has a runny nose and is just not feeling great, we'll agree with you that it's probably a cold and advise you to send your child to school if they are well enough to be in school. This BBC video is helpful in thinking about whether someone has a cold or COVID. [A cold, flu or coronavirus - which one do I have?](#)

What should I do if my child has COVID symptoms?

If your child has any of the 3 COVID symptoms - a loss or change of taste or smell, a temperature, a new persistent cough - you must keep your child at home and get a COVID test. Your child should not return to school until you have received the test result and it is negative, even if they are feeling better. We will ask to see evidence of a negative test result before your child returns to school.

Someone in the household is unwell and has been advised to get a COVID test. Do I keep my child at home?

Yes. If someone in your household is displaying COVID symptoms, then everyone in the household must isolate until the test result comes back as negative. If the test result is positive then all household members should continue isolating for 14 days.

My child has COVID symptoms, but we can't get a test. What should I do?

Keep trying! We know that tests are not easy to come by but you cannot give up and just send your child back to school if they seem a bit better. Be persistent with the system. If you can't get an appointment at an accessible testing centre, then order a home testing kit. If you keep trying, you will get a test, but we know it is taking a lot of time and energy. This website tells you where the testing centres are each day, but you cannot turn up without an appointment. [Current dates and locations for mobile testing units](#)

What should I do if someone else in the household has a positive test for COVID?

If someone else in your household has a positive test result, then the whole family needs to self-isolate so your child can't come to school. Follow the Public Health England guidance and get a test for other household members if they develop symptoms. [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Someone I work with has tested positive for COVID and I've been told to self isolate. Should I keep my child at home as well?

No, children can still come to school and other members of the household don't need to self isolate. You are a contact of your work colleague, but other household members are 'contacts of a contact', so don't need to isolate.

What happens if someone in school has a positive COVID test result?

The school will take advice from the Department of Education help-line. The help-line advisor will talk to the school about who has had 'close contact' with this person and whether anyone from school needs to self isolate. This might be a small group of people from school,

a class or a year group, depending on the circumstances. Parents will be contacted and advised how long the children need to isolate for and school work will be provided.

If my child's class is sent home because someone in the class has had a positive test, do I keep my other children off school as well.

No, you can send other children to school and the rest of your household does not need to isolate. This is because the other household members have not had direct contact with the infected person - they are 'contacts of a contact'.