

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF A PUPIL WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Pupils and staff who exhibit any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should NOT attend school.

Symptoms to look out for:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature); OR
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If you have symptoms you should arrange a PCR test.

Book a visit to a test site to have the test today. Or order a home test kit if you cannot get to a test site.

DO NOT WAIT - KEEP THE SCHOOL INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME OF THE TEST.

If you have taken a routine lateral flow test (LFT) and the result is **positive** you should isolate for 10 days from the date the LFT test was taken. You no longer need to book a PCR test. (as of 06/01/22)

Do not attend your GP surgery or emergency department in person before calling ahead and speaking with someone.

If you have very serious symptoms or feel it is a medical emergency and you need to call an ambulance, **dial 999** and inform the operator of your symptoms.

If you receive a negative result to your PCR:

You can return to school if you have a negative PCR test, as long as:

- you feel well enough, and have not had a raised temperature for more than 48 hours.

If you develop new or worsening symptoms, you should self-isolate and can arrange to be re-tested.

If you receive a positive diagnosis of COVID-19:

- you'll need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started; **Test day is Day 0**. This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 11.59 pm on the 25th of the month.

- **after 10 days:**
if you **have not had a high temperature for 48 hours**, you no longer need to self-isolate;
if you **still have a high temperature**, you need to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal for 48 hours.
- you do not need to self-isolate if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste after 10 days, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.
Ending isolation early
- You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days provided you have two negative lateral flow tests (LFT) taken 24 hours apart.
- You can take the first LFT from day 5 of your isolation period (morning). The second should be taken the next day at least 24 hours later (morning of potential return to school).
- If both these test results are negative, and **you do not have a high temperature**, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result.
- The earliest you can end isolation is on day six (providing the LFTs on day five and six are both negative).

Close contacts of COVID-19 www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19

The Public Health Agency (PHA) are now responsible for all contact tracing within schools. As we progress through the pandemic response, we must continue to strike a balance between safeguarding children's education and wellbeing, and measures to contain COVID-19. Having examined the evidence, the Chief Medical Officer Professor Sir Michael McBride is confident that now is the right time to introduce a more targeted approach to the identification of close contacts of COVID-19 cases in schools. **Everyone should follow PHA isolation guidance.** Isolation guidance will then be provided that is context specific.

The guidelines are changing regularly so refer to the **nidirect.gov.uk** website. Currently, if you are a close contact, do a daily LFD test each morning for 10 days. If negative, come to school/work each day. If a test is positive, self-isolate for the required days.

Pupils or members of staff can only return to school when they have completed the necessary period of isolation as advised by the PHA. This will help contain any potential transmission to those staff/pupils and will also assist in protecting the wider community