



## September 2020 – Full opening of the School Responding if persons fall ill

This flow diagram shows how we shall advise individuals (children and adults) and their households if they become unwell, or if they are sent home because they have been in contact with someone who is ill. It is based on guidance for the full opening of schools and Public Health advice to minimise risks.

**'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection':**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

### A person with symptoms

**If** anyone becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), **then** *they* must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus.

All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit

**If** a person becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), **then** *other members of their household (including any siblings)* should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

**If** a person with symptoms *tests negative* and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), **then** *they* can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.

*Other members of their household* can stop self-isolating.

**If** a person with symptoms *tests positive*, **then** *they* should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste - this is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

*Other members of their household* should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

## **A person who is sent home because they have been in contact with someone with who has tested positive**

Schools must take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools should contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

**If** a person has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive and is sent home to self-isolate for 14 days, **then** *their household* does not need to self-isolate, unless the person who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

**If** a person who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive subsequently *develops symptoms themselves* within their 14-day isolation period, **then** they should follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' - stay at home and get a test.

**If** the test delivers a **negative result**, **then** they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.

**If** the test delivers a **positive result**, **then** *they* (or their parent in the case of a child) should inform the school immediately and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period).

**If** the test delivers a **negative result**, **then** *their household* can stop self-isolating if they do not have symptoms

**If** the test delivers a **positive result**, **then** *their household* should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following '[stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'

## **Two or more confirmed cases within 14 days**

If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, they may have an outbreak, and must continue to work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group. If schools are implementing controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive.

Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.

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### **Contact details (Local Health Protection Officer):**

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