








# COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence:

## A quick guide for parents/carers

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school/early years setting ...
 <p>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Child should have a PCR test **</li> <li>• Whole household (and support /childcare bubble) self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school/early years setting immediately of test result</li> </ul>	<p>...when child's PCR test comes back negative and free from fever for 48 hours</p> <p>A negative PCR result means the test did not find coronavirus at the time of the test. They can return to school/early years setting when feeling well enough. Coughs and loss of smell/ taste may last several weeks if the child had another virus such as a cold or flu.</p>
 <p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a Lateral Flow Test (LFD Test)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Child should get a confirmatory PCR test if LFD Test was completed at home</li> <li>• Child and whole household self-isolates (including support/childcare bubble) for at least 10 days as advised</li> <li>• Inform school/early years setting immediately of result</li> </ul>	<p>... when the isolation period has been completed and the child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours. They can return to school/early years setting after 10 days</p> <p><b>OR</b> if the confirmatory PCR test is negative</p>
<p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a PCR test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Child self-isolates for at least 10 days as advised</li> <li>• Inform school/early years setting immediately of result</li> <li>• Whole household (and support/childcare bubble) self-isolates for 10 days as advised</li> </ul>	<p>..when the isolation period has been completed and the child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours. They can return to school/early years setting after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste</p>
 <p>...somebody in my household or support/childcare bubble has COVID-19 symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Household(or support/childcare bubble)member with symptoms should get a PCR test **</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<p>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</p>

\* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.  
For further details visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

\*\* Visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school/early years setting ...
 <p>...somebody in my household or support /childcare bubble has tested positive for COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>•Whole household(and support/childcare bubble)are close contacts and will self-isolate for 10 days as advised - even if you or someone else tests negative during those 10 days</li> </ul>	<p>...when child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 10 days</p>
 <p>... my child has been identified as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Child should not attend school/early years setting</li> <li>•Child should self-isolate for 10 days as advised – even if they test negative during those 10 days</li> <li>•Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they have also been identified as a 'close contact' of someone with a positive result or they develop symptoms</li> </ul>	<p>...when the child has completed their period of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 10 days</p>
 <p>...we have received advice from my child's GP or the NHS that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>•Contact school/early years setting as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</li> <li>•Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<p>..if you receive advice from your child's GP or the NHS that your child no longer needs to shield and can return to school/ early years setting Or, when you are informed that shielding is paused</p>
 <p>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with symptoms* need to book a PCR test through NHS Test &amp; Trace. Call 119 or visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test">https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</a></li> <li>•People without symptoms* can get a rapid (lateral flow) test as part of a testing scheme for people without symptoms (e.g. at a community test site, or through school/workplace testing schemes, etc).</li> </ul>	

For further information: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) (Adapted from a document produced by Greater Manchester. Updated 24.03.21)