Covid-19: Is my child too ill for school?

South Gloucestershire Council

Delivering for you

School is the best place for children to learn and for their overall mental and physical wellbeing. This quick guide for parents and carers is to help you understand when NOT to send your child to school, the steps to take and when to send them back. This includes the new legal obligation to self-isolate.

If your child has any of these symptoms, get a test as soon as possible.
Visit: ⊕ **www.nhs.uk/coronavirus**. If you are unable to use the webpage, call 📞 **119**.
DO NOT call 📞 **111** to try and book a test.

A high temperature	**or**	a new, continuous cough	**or**	a loss or change to sense of smell or taste
– where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back		– this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours		– this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

It is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. They should attend school if they are fit to do so. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Get advice from 📞 **NHS 111** if you're worried about your child and not sure what to do – it could be another illness and not Covid-19.

DON'T send your child to school if:

Situation...	What you need to do...	Back to school...
My child has Covid-19 (coronavirus) symptoms	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Inform school immediately** • **Get a test for your child** • **Whole household must self-isolate while waiting for test result** • **Inform school about the test results as soon as you get them**	When child's test comes back negative or the 10 days isolation (from the day after the onset of symptoms) period has ended
My child has symptoms of Covid-19 (coronavirus) but I am having difficulty getting my child tested, what should I do?	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Keep the school informed** • **Regularly reload the NHS portal website throughout the day** • **Your child will need to stay at home isolating for 10 days from the day after any symptoms begin (so, for example, they have a high temperature on Monday, keep them home 10 days from Tuesday), or until they receive a negative test.** • **Your whole household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms.** • **If symptoms get worse, please seek medical advice as this could be another illness and not Covid-19**	Once a negative test is received or after your child has stayed home for 10 days from the day after the symptoms begin.
My child tests positive for Covid-19 (coronavirus). You will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace with advice. They will ask you to complete a questionnaire of all close contacts. NHS Test & Trace: 0300 013 5000	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Your child will need to stay at home isolating for 10 days from the day after any symptoms begin (so, for example, they have a high temperature on Monday, keep them home 10 days from Tuesday), or from the day of the test if no symptoms** • **Your whole household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms (or from day of test if no symptoms), even if someone tests negative during those 14 days** • **Inform your child's school immediately about test results**	Your child can return to school after they have stayed home for 10 days from the day after symptoms begin, even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. Any siblings can return after the 14 day period as long as they have not developed any symptoms.
Somebody in my household has Covid-19 (coronavirus) symptoms	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Inform the school immediately** • **The member of your household with symptoms should get a test** • **Your whole household needs to self-isolate while waiting for test result** • **Inform school immediately about test results once received**	When household member test is negative, and child has not developed Covid-19 symptoms
Somebody in my household has tested positive for Covid-19 (coronavirus)	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Inform the school immediately** • **Your whole household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of the symptoms (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days**	When child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days and have not developed symptoms
NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with confirmed Covid-19 (coronavirus)	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Your child will need to stay home for 14 days from the date given by NHS Test & Trace or Public Health England** • **Inform school immediately** • **The rest of your household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too** • **Only If your child develops symptoms should you get them tested**	After the 14 days of self isolation as advised is completed and your child has not developed symptoms
My child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	• **Do NOT send your child to school** • **Inform school immediately** • **Your child (and other household members who have also travelled) should isolate at home for 14 days** • **Get tested if symptoms develop** • **Even if negative continue to self isolate**	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child and no symptoms have developed in that time frame
We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding	• **Keep your child at home** • **Inform school immediately** • **Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again**	When school / other agencies inform you that there is no longer a need to shield and your child can return to school

Stop the spread. Do the right thing.

www.southglos.gov.uk/**coronavirus**