



Spring Term 2022

Return to school - Covid Q & As

Information below sourced from Government websites (as listed), correct at time of writing (3.1.2022), with **amendment** made 7.1.2022.:

Schools COVID-19 operational guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044530/Schools_guidance_Jan_22.pdf?fbclid=IwARlyhb8AEOratxRBHl48SCu27jJMnVll2rMqkOlycBxh-o-LcSX27doyvJA

Symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19)

[Symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)

When to self isolate and what to do

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

How long to self isolate

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sars-cov-2-omicron-voc-investigating-and-managing-suspected-or-confirmed-cases/guidance-for-investigating-and-managing-individuals-with-a-suspected-or-confirmed-infection-with-omicron-sars-cov-2-variant-of-concern-in-healthcare-s>

Self-isolation for COVID-19 cases reduced from 10 to 7 days following negative LFD tests

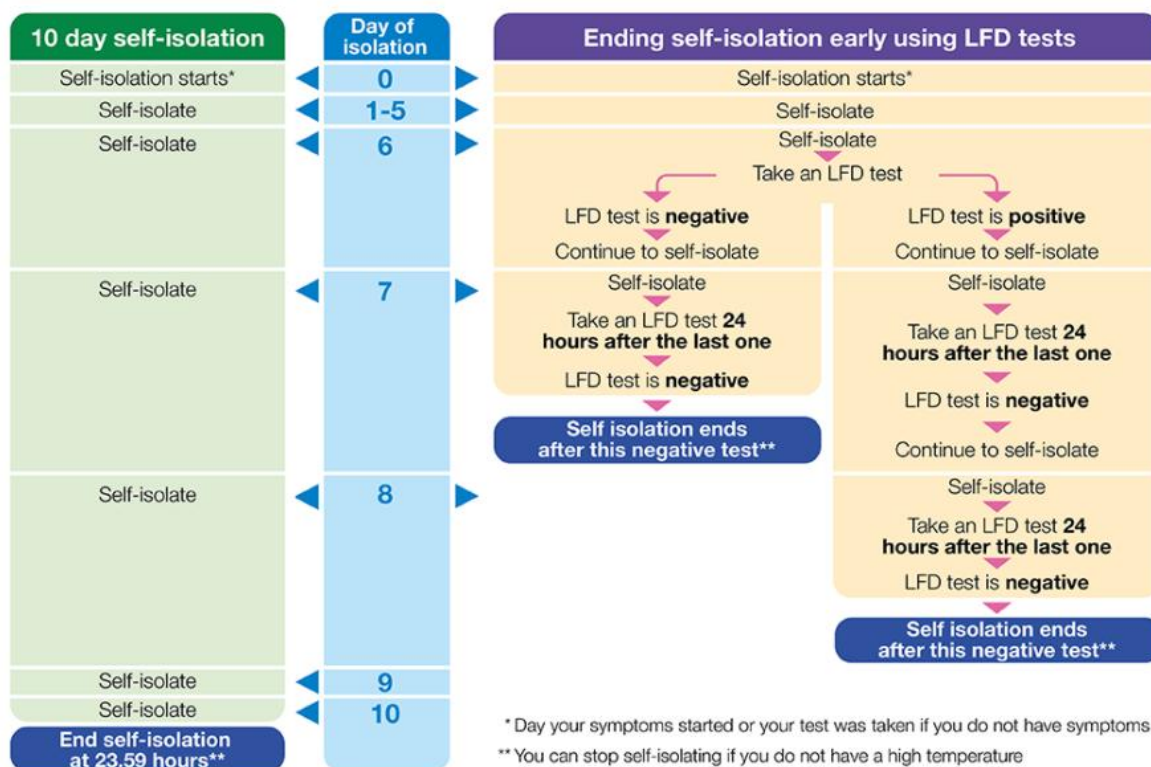
[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-covid-19-cases-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-following-negative-lfd-tests#:~:text=\(COVID%2D19\)-,Self%2Disolation%20for%20COVID%2D19%20cases%20reduced%20from%2010%20to,7%20days%2C%20i,n%20most%20cases.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-covid-19-cases-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-following-negative-lfd-tests#:~:text=(COVID%2D19)-,Self%2Disolation%20for%20COVID%2D19%20cases%20reduced%20from%2010%20to,7%20days%2C%20i,n%20most%20cases.)

What are the important symptoms of COVID 19, that we must be alert to in school?	The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are: • a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) • 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) • a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
What if children or adults develop one of the symptoms listed above?	Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, ...
What if children or adults develop one of the symptoms listed above whilst in school?	If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary.
What if someone has a positive LFD?	Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. However, our January 6th update from Gov.uk and DfE informs us of a temporary amendment to this: Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD)

	test results Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.
How can I access a test for COVID 19?	PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK
What if someone has a positive PCR test?	You should also self-isolate straight away if: • you've tested positive [on a PCR] for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
How long does self isolation last?	You usually have to self-isolate for 10 full days if you've tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). If you've been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you may have to self-isolate for 10 full days. You might need to self-isolate for longer if you get symptoms while self-isolating or your symptoms do not go away.
Can self isolation be reduced from 10 to 7 days?	At the time of writing, it is not clear how this new adjustment will apply to staff and children in school. Cases will be discussed on an individual basis. See extracts from government press release: new guidance enables the 10-day self-isolation period for people who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) to be reduced to 7 days, in most cases. People who receive negative LFD results on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period – with tests taken 24 hours apart – will no longer have to self-isolate for the full 10 days. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period. Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 7 are strongly advised to limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID- 19. There is no change to the guidance for unvaccinated contacts of positive COVID-19 cases, who are still required

	to self-isolate for 10 full days after their date of exposure to the virus.

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



What if there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 at school?	Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
What must a 'close contact' do?	If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply: • you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine • you're under 18 years and 6 months old

	• you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial • you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons Even if you do not have symptoms, you're strongly advised to: • do daily rapid lateral flow tests (1 a day for 7 days), if you're fully vaccinated, to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 - find out more about daily testing on GOV.UK • follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19 • consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19 Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If [adults] choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.
What actions need to be taken following overseas travel?	Travel and quarantine All children and staff travelling to England must adhere to government travel advice in travel to England from another country during coronavirus (COVID-19). Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return. Entry and isolation guidance Travel measures to reduce risk to the UK against new international variants may change over time. For guidance on entry and isolation requirements for travel to England from another country, refer to the following guidance.
When will remote education be offered?	Remote education Where appropriate, you should support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive, to work or learn from home, if they are well enough to do so.