



## COVID-19 absence from school - FAQs for parents/carers

### 1. I think that my child might have COVID-19 – what should I do?

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

If you think that your child might have COVID-19, your whole household, including anyone in a support bubble with you, **must self-isolate**, and the child must be tested. Tests can be booked online at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>.

If the results are **negative**, your child (and, where applicable, other members of the household) can return to school when they feel well enough to do so.

If the test is **positive**, your child must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, and the rest of the household must isolate for 14 days.

For further information, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

**In all cases, please inform the school as soon as possible and keep us updated on test results** so that we can act in accordance with Department for Education and local authority guidelines to minimise risk to others, both in the school and the wider community. Please use the usual school number – 01473 728178 – and choose **option 2 to report a Year 7 to 11 student absence** or chose **option 4 to report a sixth form student absence**.

### 2. I think that someone other than my child who lives in our household, or is in a support bubble with us, has COVID-19 – can my child come to school?

If someone in the household, including anyone in a support bubble with you, is showing COVID-19 symptoms, the whole household must self-isolate until the person has been tested and has a negative test result. In the case of a positive test result, the person who has tested positive must self-isolate until 10 days after the start of their symptoms, and the rest of the household must self-isolate for 14 days.

**Students must not come to school while someone else in their household who is showing COVID-19 symptoms is awaiting a test or test results.**

### 3. What will happen if my child shows COVID-19 symptoms at school?

If your child displays COVID-19 symptoms at school, the Department for Education has stated that they must be sent home, so we will contact a parent/carer to arrange this. If there are others at the school who are part of your household, you should collect them at the same time.

Current guidance states that we must isolate a student with symptoms from other students and staff. If the weather is fine, students will sit outside the main school reception area to await collection. If the weather is poor, or the student is severely unwell, then the student will sit in our isolation room – please come to reception if your child is not waiting for you outside.



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Parents must then follow the guidance as stated above for households with a possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection; the student must self-isolate for at least 10 days and their parents must arrange a test to see if they have COVID-19. Tests can be booked online at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

**Again, we would ask that parents keep us informed** so that we can act in accordance with Department for Education and local authority guidelines to minimise risk to others, both in the school and the wider community. Please use the usual school number – 01473 728178 – and choose option 2 to report a Year 7 to 11 student absence or chose 4 to report a sixth form student absence.

**4. What should I do if someone in my child's class is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms?**

Current guidance for schools' states that anyone who has been in close contact in school with a student who is displaying COVID-19 symptoms does not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, their parents must arrange a test). If the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive, the school will liaise with the local Health Protection Team to put plans in place and will communicate with parents in accordance with their advice.

**5. My child is showing cold symptoms – can they still come to school?**

If your child has normal cold symptoms i.e. a runny or blocked nose and a cough, with no COVID-19 symptoms, they can still attend school provided they are well enough in themselves.

**6. My child is at home, as they are self-isolating or have COVID-19 symptoms, but they feel well enough to complete schoolwork. What can they do?**

Work is available on eSchools, which is accessible from our website at [www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk) . Departments will be updating this work on a regular basis. We are planning to roll out additional learning resources via MS Teams, our new learning platform that we are currently training with, in order to plan for absence/rota-based closures. Further information will be provided in due course.

15 September 2020