

COVID-19 absence from college - FAQs for parents/carers

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 college 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 college 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 college and the wider community. Please use the usual college number – 01284 701301 – and speak to the reception team who will be able to direct your call

My child has a cough – do they need to remain at home?

- We have interpreted the guidance as the following:

'Covid cough'

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour
- three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

Student should stay away from college and take a test

'Non-concerning cough'

- A cough that accompanies a mild cold with no identified temperature and the student feels well within themselves and does not feel the need to rest
- A cough that is caused by asthma or another pre-existing condition and has not increased and is not accompanied by a temperature
- A cough caused by recent exposure to dust/irritant and has not increased and is not accompanied by a temperature
- A cough that is usual for the individual and has not increased and is not accompanied by a temperature

Student should attend college as normal and advise their teachers if questioned, of their particular circumstance

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 college?

- 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 for 14 days.

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

What will happen if my child shows COVID-19 symptoms at college?

- If your child displays COVID-19 symptoms at college, 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 College who are part of your household, you will need to collect them at the same time.
- Guidance states that we must isolate a student with symptoms from other students and staff. The College has identified isolation rooms around the campus to provide individuals with privacy. Please report to reception to collect your child.
- Parents must then follow the guidance as stated above for households with a possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection, which sets out that the student must self-isolate for at least 10 days and that 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 College and the wider community. Please use the usual college number – 01284 701301 – and speak to our reception team who will be able to take any information you are able to provide.

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

- The guidance for colleges states that anyone who has been in close contact in college 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 College will liaise with the local Health Protection Team to put plans in place and will communicate with parents in accordance with their guidance.

My child is showing cold symptoms – can they still come to college?

- 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 college provided they are well enough in themselves.

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

- Work will be provided by teachers and they will liaise with your child to ensure that their learning is not unduly disrupted.

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