

COVID 19 TESTING GUIDELINES

From Dept for Education Schools and Colleges Testing Webinar

The main symptoms of Coronavirus are:

- **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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SYMPTOMATIC MUST:

- Isolate immediately and take a test
- If positive must self isolate for 10 days

Web link for booking an appointment for test or for a home test kit

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronaviris.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

HOUSEHOLDS MUST :

- Isolate for 14 days

THE SCHOOL MUST:

- **Contact your local health protection team (HPT) on 0300 303 8537 option 1 who will**
 - Contact you directly if they are aware that someone who has tested positive has attended the school
 - Carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person and ensure they are asked to self isolate
 - Work with the school to guide you through the actions you need to take
- **Schools must send home people who have been in close contact with an infected individual, and they must self isolate for 14 days since LAST contact with that person**
 - Close contact means
 1. Direct close contact – face to face contact with the infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
 2. Proximity contact – extended close contact (within 1 to 2 for more than 15 mins) with an infected individual.
 3. Travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The local HPT will advise on who must be sent home

- Individuals can end their isolation if there are NO symptoms AND a negative test result
- If further symptoms develop there will be a need to isolate and a further test may be appropriate

- After the full isolation period they can return to school as long as there is no temperature – there may still be a cough present.
- Another test is not required as they may still have some virus in their body but are no longer contagious

SCHOOL TESTING KITS

- The test kits sent to schools are ONLY to be offered in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES to individuals (pupils, teachers and staff) who:
- Have developed symptoms while at school AND
- You believe they may have barriers to accessing a test elsewhere
- You believe if you sent the individual home without a kit they would not receive a test at all

Schools should NOT be conducting coronavirus testing on site, unless in the case of a boarder

Individuals should NOT attend school to receive a test if they have developed symptoms outside of school

Advise parents to ring 111 if at any point symptoms get worse

STEP BY STEP GUIDANCE TO GIVE TO PARENTS – all to be done on the same day

1. Read instructions inside test pack
2. Conduct testing at home
3. Register test kits online to ensure they receive a result
4. Return test kit via Royal Mail Priority box

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