

## **CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOL SETTING – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF**

Where a case of confirmed COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been reported in a person with links to a school setting, all close contacts of the case who need to take specific actions with regard to testing and self-isolation will be identified, contacted and advised by the Public Health Agency (PHA) Contact Tracing Service.

If you are contacted by PHA Contact Tracing Service, please follow the guidance that they provide to you. Information on the latest self-isolation requirements can be found on NI Direct (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating>). **The advice on what to do if a close contact changed on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Please book a free PCR test, even if an earlier one was negative. Your child should stay at home and self-isolate until you receive the result.** Please see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): self-isolating | nidirect](#) for guidance on whether other people in your household also need to self-isolate while you are waiting for your child's PCR result.

Tests can be arranged at your closest testing site or by requesting a postal kit which will be sent to your home address. You can choose whichever option is more convenient for you. Going for a COVID test is one of the reasons your child can leave home during the self-isolation period, however, they should not use public transport. Please order a postal test if you do not have private transport to a test site.

## **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- **Please get vaccinated if you are eligible and haven't already done so**
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

## **Further information**

For further information, please see the NI Direct website [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): self-isolating | nidirect](#) the Public Health Agency website <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus> or contact NHS 111. If your child feels unwell and you are worried about their symptoms or about anyone else in the home, please contact your GP.

## Who should self-isolate and for how long

If you have COVID-19 symptoms

If you have [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (COVID-19), however mild, you should begin self-isolating and book a PCR test. These are widely available and are free.

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): testing](#)

You should continue to isolate until the result of the test is available. If the result is positive you should continue to self-isolate for 10 full days after the symptoms started.

You can end self-isolation 10 days after your symptoms started, as long as you do not still have a high temperature. If you still have a high temperature, you need to continue to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal for 48 hours.

You do not need to continue self-isolating for more than 10 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell/ taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

More information is available at:

- [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

Close contacts of COVID-19

If you're a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, self-isolation and testing requirements will depend on whether you're fully vaccinated, your age and where you work.

A close contact can be:

- anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19

OR

- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:
  - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  - skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
  - been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
  - sexual contacts
  - been within two metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
  - travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

Aged 18 and over and not fully vaccinated

If you are aged 18 and over, but not fully vaccinated, you should self-isolate for 10 days following last contact with the positive person.

You will be asked to take a PCR but, even if this is negative, you still need to complete the isolation period.

If you are not able to be vaccinated for a clinical reason, you should complete a period of self-isolation for the full 10 days, even if you receive a negative PCR test result.

Fully vaccinated close contacts

Since 16 August, **if you are fully vaccinated** (more than 14 days since you received the second dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine), you do not need to self-isolate for 10 days if someone you have been in close contact with tests positive for COVID-19.

You should get a PCR test on day two and day eight of the 10-day period following last contact with the positive person.

If the PCR test is positive, whether or not you have symptoms, you should complete a period of 10 days self-isolation from the day you first had symptoms, or the day the test was taken if there were no symptoms.

Even if you're fully vaccinated, if you have been identified as a close contact, you are advised not to visit hospitals or care homes for 10 days and to minimise contact with those known to be at higher risk if they contract COVID-19, such as the [Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Group \(CEV\)](#) for 10 days.

Young people (aged five to 17)

Young people (aged five to 17) who are not fully vaccinated and are identified as a close contacts should self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible.

If the PCR test is negative, they can end their self-isolation and should arrange to take another PCR test eight days after the last known contact.

If the young person who is a close contact develops symptoms at any time they should immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test, even if the earlier PCR tests were negative.

If any of the PCR tests are positive, this means they have the infection and they should self-isolate for 10 days, in line with advice for confirmed cases.

Children under the age of five

Children under the age of five will be encouraged, but not required, to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate unless they develop symptoms or have a positive PCR result.

Close contacts with positive PCR test in the past 90 days

If you're a close contact who is fully vaccinated, or under the age of 18, and have had a positive PCR test within 90 days of the date of contact,

you do not need to isolate and do not need to book tests at day two and day eight.

However, if you develop symptoms, you should isolate and book a PCR.