

## **FAQs for Parents and Carers: when your child has been sent home following possible contact with a confirmed case.**

### **Q. Why has my child been sent home?**

- A. We have had a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school community. In line with current public health guidance, your child has been asked to self-isolate for 14 days, based on advice from our local authority public health team, because they may have been in close, face to face contact with someone in their year group bubble who has tested positive for the virus.

### **Q. Do other members of my household need to self-isolate? Should my child's siblings self-isolate as a precaution?**

- A. No. Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child who was sent home subsequently develops symptoms. Your child's siblings can attend school.

### **Q. When can my child return to school?**

- A. Please refer to the original letter when your child was sent home for the return date, which is set by the local authority public health team.

### **Q. Do I need to book a test for my child?**

- A. No. You should only book a test if your child has symptoms of Coronavirus.

### **Q. Are other students being sent home?**

- A. Following public health advice, students who may have been in close contact with the confirmed case are being sent home. We have procedures in place to ensure students minimise contact and are encouraged to maintain distance as far as possible, including staying in separate groups (or 'bubbles') so we can minimise the number of students who need to be sent home in the event of a positive case. The local authority public health team advises the school regarding who should be sent home depending on the particular circumstances of each case.

## **Q. What if I think my child has had contact with the confirmed case?**

- A. The school has liaised with the local health protection team to identify which children or groups of children need to self-isolate. If your child has not been asked to self-isolate, this is because there was no contact at school, or any contact at school was not sufficiently close to warrant self-isolation.

If you believe your child was in close contact with the confirmed case outside school, your child may need to self-isolate. Please contact the school in the first instance.

## **Q. What should I do if my child begins to show symptoms?**

- A. If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), then they must stay at home for at least 10 days, but all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 10-day and 14-day periods start from the day when your child developed symptoms. You must inform us of this as soon as possible.

Arrange a test if your child develops symptoms. This can be at a local test site (and get the results the next day) or by ordering a postal test kit (which will take a little longer) To arrange a test visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call NHS 119.

If the test is positive, follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. Your child must continue to self-isolate for the remainder of the 10-day period, and other members of the household must continue to self-isolate for the remainder of the 14-day period. You must inform us of this as soon as possible.

If the test is negative, your child can return to school at the end of the self-isolation period for their bubble. Please refer to the original letter when your child was sent home. Other members of the household can stop self-isolating. You must inform us of this as soon as possible.

We ask all parents and carers to keep the school informed of any changes to your family's medical state. If your child has a positive test and they may have been in contact with others in school, those in their class / group may need to be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

## **Q. How do I book a test?**

- A. To arrange a test visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call NHS 119.

## **Q. What if I can't book a test? How long should I keep trying to book?**

- A. There are a limited number of home test kits and drive-through or walk-through test appointments available at a time. If the website says there are none left, it's because NHS Test and Trace have given out all the kits and filled all the appointments that are available at the moment. Try again later as more appointments are made available during the day.

You need to get the test done in the first 5 days of having symptoms. You can try asking for a home test kit up to 3pm on the 4th day since symptoms started.

Source: <https://www.nhs.uk/contact-us/get-help-with-asking-for-a-coronavirus-test/>

## **Q. Can my child book their own test? Can my child do their own test?**

- A. According to the NHS website, a young person can apply for a test for themselves from the age of 16. Parents and carers can apply for a test for their children, whatever their age.

Children aged 11 or under cannot do the test themselves. Parents and carers will have to swab test their child, whether you get a home test kit or go to a test site. You will get instructions on how to do it. Some test sites have testers who will carry out the swab test but this is only available for adults and children aged 12 and above.

Children aged 12 to 17 can swab test themselves or have their parent or guardian swab test them. At some test sites, a tester will carry out the test.

Source: <https://www.nhs.uk/contact-us/get-help-with-asking-for-a-coronavirus-test/>

## **Q. What about Free School Meals?**

- A. School will provide a lunch option for FSM students. The arrangements for this will be communicated separately to the relevant parents and carers.

## **Q. How will remote learning take place while my child is at home?**

- A. Whilst at home, students will be expected to access online learning. Further information about how to access the work will be sent out so that students can continue with their learning. Currently it is our intention that all students follow their timetabled lessons each day with support from their teachers.



**Q. Would the wearing of mandatory face masks prevent a bubble closure?**

- A. Not necessarily; it depends on the circumstances of each scenario. For each case, we have to liaise with Public Health England and they subsequently advise the school regarding the specifics presented to them.

*Please note: this document is under regular review. Please refer to the school website for the latest updates.*