

September 2021 – Covid FAQs for parents

What are the qualifying symptoms, and what should we do if my child develops them?

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a 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

What to do if you have symptoms:

- If you have any of these symptoms, even if they're mild, get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible
- Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your result – only leave your home to have a test
- Inform the school if this means your child will be absent from school until the PCR test result is received

My child has had a confirmed positive PCR test. What happens now?

- Your child will have to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will make contact to ask you to identify any particular close contacts (the school no longer does this)
- Notify the school admissions line of the positive test result
- Your child's tutor and subject teachers will be notified that your child will be absent from school for the 10-day isolation period. In the first instance your child should complete work already set on Firefly, any outstanding homework, and can access online systems such as Hegarty Maths, Linguascope for MFL and The National Oak Academy for other subjects. Once teaching staff have been able to prepare the required online resources they will share work that mirrors in-class learning and provide any further guidance

My child has had a confirmed negative PCR test. What happens now?

- They are not required to self-isolate anymore and are able to return to school as long as they are otherwise well enough to do so
- If other 'main' symptoms develop they should get another PCR test

What will happen if my child develops symptoms during the school day?

Students who start to display COVID-19 symptoms in school will be escorted to a holding room and supervised by a member of staff. We will contact parents/carers to collect the child and ask them to arrange a PCR test and let us know the result. The student will need to stay at home until they get the test result.

What if a member of our household has symptoms or tests positive? Should my child still come to school?

From 16 August, if you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19. This means that students should still attend school unless they themselves have a positive lateral flow test result or show symptoms of COVID-19, in which case they should take a PCR test and stay at home until they get the result.

What if my child is identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive?

Children under the age of 18 years and 6 months are no longer required to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. They are, however, advised to get a PCR test. Students should still attend school whilst waiting for the outcome of the PCR test.

My child has recently had COVID-19, should they still be taking tests?

If a student has previously tested positive, they won't need to be tested again for 90 days from the onset of symptoms if they became ill, or from the date of their positive test if asymptomatic. Please let the school know if your child should not be tested for this reason so that we can update our records. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the 90-day period they may need to be re-tested.