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This document will be continuously updated in response to any common queries we receive from schools over the coming weeks.

Who needs to self-isolate, in what circumstances, and for how long?

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#) (if they test positive at school, you should arrange for them to be collected)
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result, whether the test was done at home, school or college

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

Individuals will still need to self-isolate for ten days if they are instructed to carry out a PCR test by NHS Test & Trace, and this test result is positive. This ten day period starts the day after you test positive or receive instruction to self-isolate. [When to self-isolate and what to do | NHS](#)

There are various new exceptions for those in contact with someone with COVID -19 see below. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19,

From the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#):

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Direct contacts that do not meet the exemption criteria above need to self isolate for 10 days from their last contact with the positive case.

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport in all circumstances

Do schools need to be involved in contact tracing?

No, not since 18 July. Contact tracing will be done by NHS Test & Trace. Schools are not expected to notify parents of individual positive cases.

What should I do with a child who is symptomatic, or has received a positive test?

From the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#):

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in your school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice...

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Further information on this can be found in the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

What if a parent or carer does not agree their child needs to stay at home?

From the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#):

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to

be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

What should we do about clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people?

The updated guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care is that:

...children and young people, including those originally considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), are at very low risk of becoming seriously unwell from the virus.

As such, the recommendation is that these children and young people attend school unless they have been specifically instructed otherwise.

All children and young people who were considered as clinically extremely vulnerable should have returned to school following the end of shielding measures on 1 April 2021, unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend. Due to the nature of their condition, these children may have been advised by their clinicians to stay home from school even before the pandemic.