

September 2020

Dear Parents,

With the cough and cold season upon us, we thought it would be useful to provide clarity for parents about school attendance.

If your child is unwell and unable to learn (whether this is Covid related or not), please keep your child at home. Mild colds, runny noses and sniffles are unlikely to fall into this category. Children in these situations can be in school.

Covid symptoms 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

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. Therefore, if your child is showing any of the above signs or symptoms, your child (and any siblings), should stay at home and get a Covid test. The household should self-isolate during this time. When you get the test results, please let school know the outcome. Your children should only return to school if the test comes back negative. Schools and households need to follow set procedures if there is a positive test result – please keep us informed.

We do hope this helps to clarify the situation from parents. Overleaf are answers to some frequently asked questions relating to different Covid situations, as they stand today. As government / health advice is continually revising, we ask that parents do not rely on these but double check with school for the latest updates.

We appreciate that often you have to make that judgement call first thing in the morning and it can be difficult – thank you for helping us with our efforts to keep our school safe and well.

With kind regards



Nicky Edmondson
CEO
Excalibur Academies Trust

Q & A

What do I do?

My child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)

- Do not send your child to school
- Inform school immediately about test results
- Your child must self-isolate for at least 10 days excluding day of onset (or from day of test if no symptoms)
- Your whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) -even if someone tests negative during those 14 days
- When your child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours, he / she can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/ taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.

Somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms

- Do not send your child to school
- The household member with symptoms must book a test
- Whole household needs to self-isolate while waiting for test result
- Inform school immediately about test result situation
- Your child can return to school if your household member's test is negative, your child does not have COVID-19 symptoms and your child has not been advised to self-isolate by test and trace services

Somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)

- Do not send your child to school
- Your whole household should self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days
- Inform school immediately about test result situation
- Your child can return to school when he / she has completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. Your child must self-isolate for 14 days even if he she tests negative during the self-isolation period.

NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact'

- Do not send your child to school
- Your child must self-isolate for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace)– even if they test negative during those 14 days
- The rest of your household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are also a 'close contact'
- Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. Your child must self-isolate for 14 days even if he / she tests negative during that time.

Your child has been in contact with someone who has been identified as a 'close contact'

- Attend school as normal if your child does not have any Covid symptoms.

We / my child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate.

- Do not send your child to school
- The whole household must self-isolate for 14 days –even if they test negative during those 14 days
- Your child can return to school only when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if he / she tests negative during those 14 days.

Travel reminders:

- Do not take unauthorised leave in term time
- Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel
- Provide information to school as per the Attendance Policy.

We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding

- Do not send your child to school
- Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team
- Your child needs to shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again
- Your child can return to school when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.