



Derby City Council

Date 9th November 2020

Dear Parents,

This is a very difficult time for us all as we enter our second national lockdown. If we follow the rules over the next few weeks, we can really reduce the spread of coronavirus in our City and help to protect our family and friends.

We are particularly grateful to our Schools, to our fantastic teaching staff who continue to work so hard to keep our children learning. This is so important for their mental and physical health as well as their learning and has been an enormous task. We are also grateful to all of you, who have shared the challenges of home schooling and cared for children being asked to self-isolate with the impact this has had on all our lives.

It is incredibly important that we continue to support our schools in the challenging months ahead. Importantly we must ensure that we follow the national guidelines on self-isolation as this is key to reducing the spread of the virus.

- If your child has coronavirus symptoms they must stay at home and get a test. The whole household must also stay at home until the test result is known. This means you should not leave the house for any reason.
- If the test is positive the child and the household must continue to stay at home.
- If a parent has symptoms their child should not come to school until the parent has been tested and the result is known. If the test is positive the whole household needs to continue to stay at home.

There has been confusion about these rules over recent weeks. We have seen children being sent to school with symptoms, whilst waiting test results and after they or family members have received a positive test. This has led to many teachers and children being sent home from schools to self-isolate and risked spreading the virus. We have attached

Public Health Department, People's Directorate, Derby City Council
derby.gov.uk

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our quick guide to ensure that you have all the information you need. If you are unsure, please speak to your school to ask advice. If you are struggling to self-isolate there is support available from the Derby COVID Community Response Hub, please call 01332 640000.

I must also remind you that anyone with a positive test, or a household contact of those who have a positive test, is required by law to self-isolate. It is an offence not to follow these rules and anyone who chooses not to do this may face a fine.

The rules we will have to live by in December depend on how well we manage to reduce the spread of the virus during the next few weeks. Please continue to work with us and do the right thing for Derby.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Dewis', written in a cursive style.





Dr Robyn Dewis
Director of Public Health
Derby City Council

COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents / carers





let's do the
right thing
for Derby



Derby City Council

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>...when child's test comes back negative provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to school, and feel well</p>
 <p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school immediately about test results • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i> 	<p>...after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free for at least 48 hours</p> <p>They 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.</p>
 <p>...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Household member with symptoms should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</p>
 <p>...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</i> 	<p>...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days</p>

Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 <p>...NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) – even if they test negative during those 14 days • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too 	<p>...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
 <p>...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days – even if they test negative during those 14 days 	<p>...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
 <p>...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team • Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>
 <p>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only people with symptoms* need to get a test • People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive 	<p>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p>

If anyone in your household has symptoms*, book a free COVID-19 test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call [119](https://119.gov.uk)

For further information visit gov.uk/backtoschool