HM Government

NHS

Taking your child to primary school: what you need to know

School is the best place for your child to be.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, children are now able to enjoy more freedom in their education.

Being at school keeps children's education on track, so they can achieve their full potential, while also benefitting their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

We are doing everything we can to ensure your child can continue to attend school.

What COVID-19 measures will change at my child's school?

School will feel different for your child as COVID-19 measures are relaxed.

- Bubbles and staggered start and finish times are no longer advised
- Children can again have breaktimes and lunch together and take part in practical lessons and sports with other classes and year groups
- Face coverings are no longer required for staff or visitors
- Schools are advised to continue with regular handwashing, cleaning regimes, and to keep spaces well ventilated
- If your child is identified as a close contact they will not need to self-isolate
- Schools will have plans in place on what to do if anyone at school tests positive for COVID-19, or if additional measures are needed to be reintroduced for a limited period

Should my child attend school?

Yes, attendance is mandatory. Public Health England and the Government's Chief Medical & Scientific Officers agree that there is a very low risk and rate of severe illness in children from COVID-19.

The benefit of attending school continues to significantly outweigh the COVID-19 health risk to children. If you have concerns, you should discuss these with your school and local authority so that your child is able to continue attending school.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 symptoms?

If your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they should not attend school and should stay at home.

You should arrange for them to get a **PCR test** and tell your child's school the test results. Your child should not attend school while you are waiting for test results, even if they are feeling better.

If the test is negative, they should go to school as normal. If they test positive, they should continue to isolate and follow public health advice.

What happens if my child has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms?

If your child has been identified as a close contact, you will be advised that your child takes a PCR test.

They will not have to self-isolate, unless they have a positive PCR test result.

Will my child be vaccinated?

Children at primary school are not being offered the vaccine. Only young people aged 16 to 17 have currently been offered the vaccine, as well as children aged 12 to 15 with specific underlying health conditions or who live with others at increased risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 are now also eligible for the vaccine. All school staff have now been offered the vaccine.

If my child was previously considered as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), should they attend school?

Yes. All children who were considered as CEV should have returned to school following the end of shielding measures on 1 April 2021.

Further guidance will be given to parents of children who were previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable where necessary.

Will my child be required to continue any remote learning?

If your child is isolating due to a positive PCR test, schools will continue to implement high-quality remote education so that children can learn from home if they are well enough.

How will my child catch up on any lost learning?

There is lots of support available to help your child catch up on any lost learning over the course of the pandemic or to boost their wellbeing.

To find out more about what's on offer and who's eligible, visit: **https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/** or speak to your child's school.

For further information and guidance:

- To find out more about what to expect when pupils return to school in September, visit: **gov.uk/backtoschool**
- How to order a rapid COVID-19 test for asymptomatic testing: **https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk**
- How to report your rapid COVID-19 test results: **https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result** or call 119 (free from mobile or landline)
- How to order a PCR test if you or your child has COVID-19 symptoms: **https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test**