



Dear all,

16.09.20

Lots of parents have been naturally worried about sending their child into school with the symptoms of a common cold. The children are mixing for the first time in six months so we can expect to have many snotty noses and the associated odd loose cough! Below are some reminders about how we will advise you:

#### **COMMON COLD:**

If your child is suffering some minor cold-like symptoms, unlike the COVID symptoms, then of course you can continue to send them into school as normal, unless they are too ill to attend. In this case, phone the school following our normal absence procedures. As members of staff we are expecting to see the usual snotty noses, sore throats and the odd cough here and there.

#### **COVID SYMPTOMS:**

If your child's symptoms develop into, or match the symptoms on the NHS list, then you must follow the Government advice (as outlined in the flowcharts below), isolate as a family unit and seek a COVID test for the child. The flowchart shows that you can return to school if the test is negative and the child is well enough. If you are seeking a test or waiting for results, the child cannot return until that result is received, even if their symptoms improve.

If your child has a sibling, they too must isolate at home and await the test result of the family member who has developed symptoms.

**REMINDER:** if you have told us that you are seeking a test for your child or a family member, we will not re-admit them into school until you have received a negative result.

#### **SENT HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH SUSPECTED COVID SYMPTOMS:**

If we think your child has COVID symptoms, not just a cold, we will contact you to collect your child. We will give you a letter with the Government's advice that you must follow. The flow charts below show the procedure. You must isolate as a family unit (including siblings at school) and book a COVID test for the child with symptoms.

We will not admit your child back into school until you have received a negative test result, even if your child's symptoms improve before the result is received.

We will not ask you to seek a test if we think that your child is suffering from a cold or other illnesses that are not like the COVID symptoms. The odd cough or sore throat is not automatically a trigger for being sent home!

#### **NHS COVID SYMPTOMS**

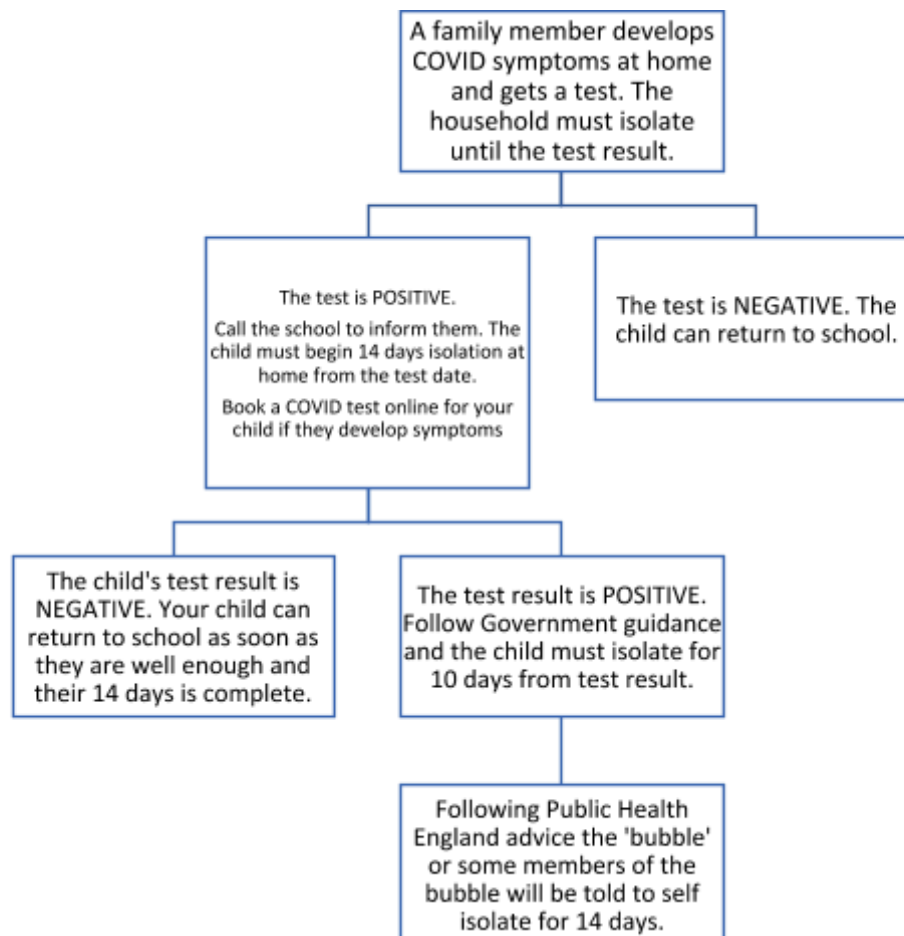
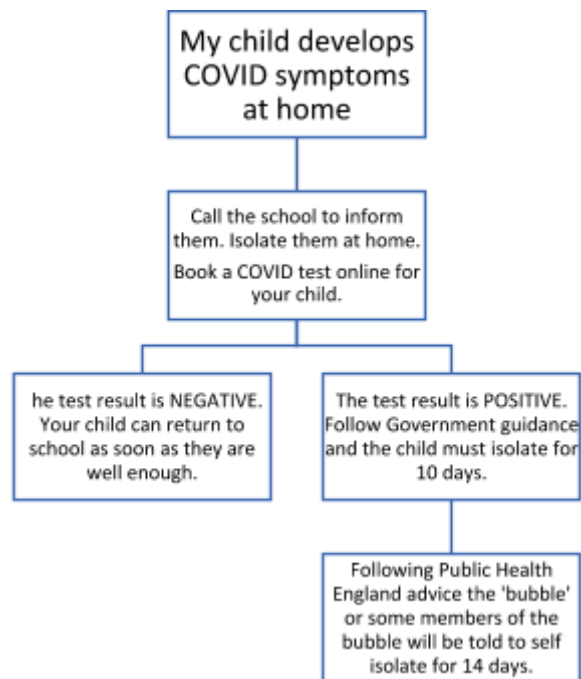
- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- 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

#### **STRUGGLING TO BOOK A TEST?**

Unfortunately, booking a test is not very easy as demand is very high currently. As mentioned above, even if symptoms disappear, if you have told us you are seeking a test, you must persist and await a test result. The school can provide work for your child for the days that they are isolated at home.

New advice states that if you are unable to get a test within 5 days of the first symptoms, the family household must all isolate for 14 days. The child can only return after this isolation period is complete. The school can provide work for your child for the days that they are isolated at home.

## Flow charts for managing COVID symptoms



# Flow charts for managing COVID symptoms

