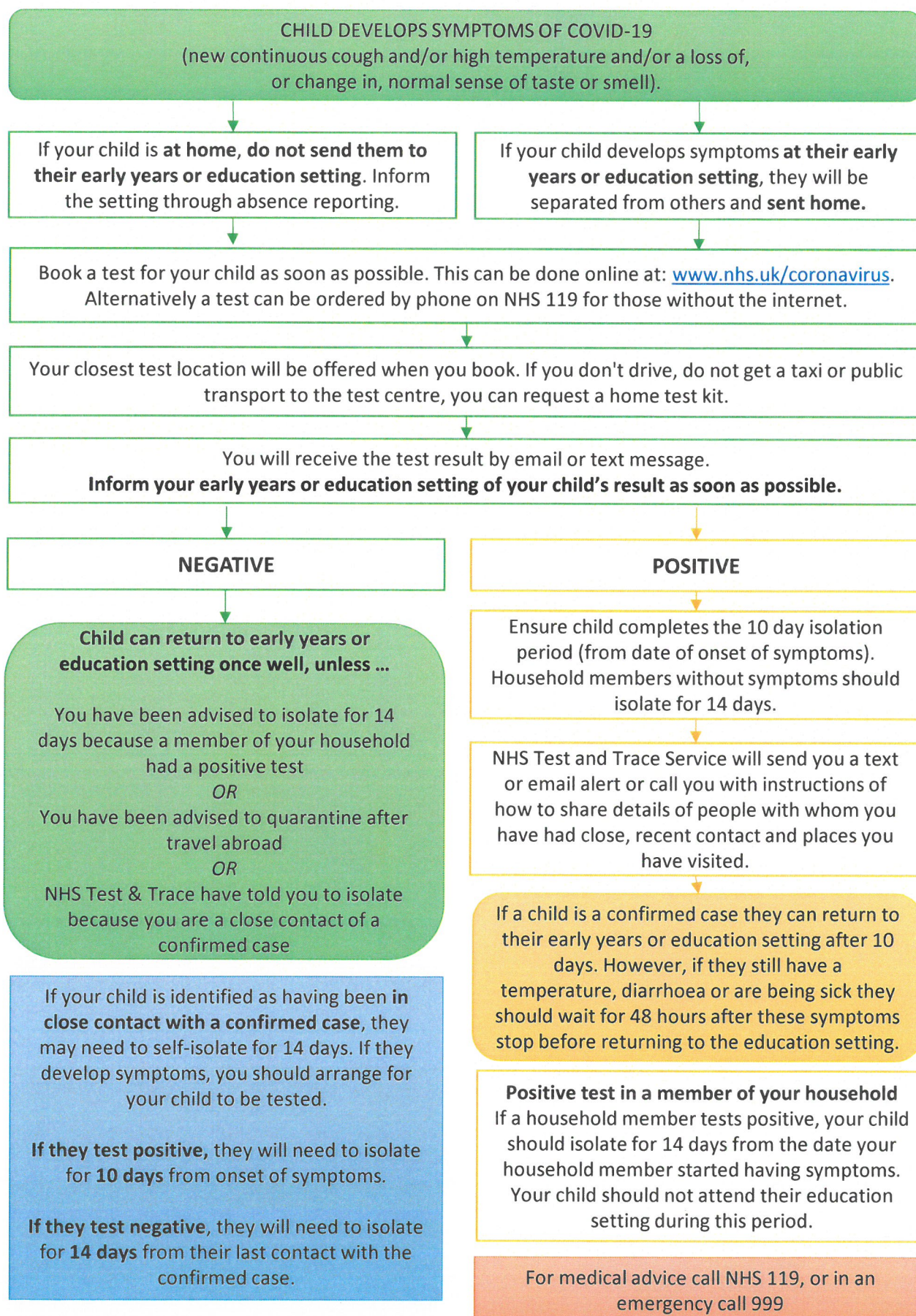


Coronavirus information for parents/carers (September 2020)

For general advice about COVID-19, contact your health visitor/school nurse service on: 01908 725100 (SPA) or cnw-tr.0-19adminhub.mk@nhs.net



The Management of Covid-19 within Educational Settings from 25th Sept 2020

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (to be used with LA Flow Chart)

1) Q: Where do I need to report that we have a child/young person or member of staff who is symptomatic or tests positive for Covid-19?

A: Please follow the most up to date Local Authority flow chart to manage cases and notify public health teams. Please note you **no longer** have to notify the LA of symptomatic cases but you must keep your own internal record of case details including date of start of symptoms, date last in setting, result of test and follow up action where necessary.

2) Q: What steps do I need to take if we have a positive Covid 19 case of a staff/child or young person?

A: Please begin the process to ascertain if any staff or young people have been a **close contact** with the positive case in the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms (or from date of test in asymptomatic), these **close contacts** need to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

N.B. The close contacts' wider households will **NOT** need to self-isolate.

Therefore ask/undertake the following questions/actions:

- a) What is the date of the onset of symptoms? (this is counted as day zero)
- b) When was positive case last in the setting?
- c) What dates therefore are 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms? (this is the infectious period)
- d) Who has the positive case been a **close contact** (see below for link to close contact definitions) with?
- e) Remember to have a full discussion with the positive case to determine all their movements including travel to and from setting, lunch and break interactions, out of setting social interactions etc
- f) All identified **close contacts** to receive letter to advise them to isolate for 14 days from the time they were last in contact with positive case. (this last date of contact counts as day zero).
- g) Positive case to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms(onset of symptoms counts as day zero, where asymptotic the date of test is counted as their day zero)
- h) If it is a staff member, do they work across multi sites, or are a supply member of staff?
- i) Send whole setting the template letter advising of a positive case but after risk assessment they are safe to continue attending.
- j) Update your local PH team on numbers of staff/children/young people isolating.

3) Q: What is a close contact?

A: A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). Please see the latest guidance below for more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Identifying close contacts of a positive case will help determine who may need to self-isolate for 14 days.

4) Q: How do I know if a child or staff member has coronavirus symptoms and needs to be tested?

A: The key symptoms are:

- A high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (temperature does not need to be measured)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing frequently for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if someone usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Runny noses and sore throats without fever are common at this time of year and children with just these symptoms do not need to be tested. See full guidance from Royal College of Paediatricians for more advice.

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-talking-children-families-about-returning-school-guiding-principles?s=09#common-cold-and-covid-19-symptoms>

The following comparison chart may be useful to recognise the difference in symptoms.

Symptom	Coronavirus <i>Symptoms can range from mild to severe</i>	Cold <i>Gradual onset of symptoms</i>	Flu <i>Abrupt onset of symptoms</i>
Fever	COMMON	RARE	COMMON
Fatigue	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	COMMON
Cough	COMMON	MILD	COMMON
Sneezing	NO	COMMON	NO
Aches & pains	SOMETIMES	COMMON	COMMON
Runny or stuff nose	RARE	COMMON	SOMETIMES
Sore throat	SOMETIMES	COMMON	SOMETIMES
Diarrhoea	RARE	NO	SOMETIMES FOR CHILDREN
Headache	SOMETIMES	RARE	COMMON
Shortness of breath	SOMETIMES	NO	NO

Adapted from World Health Organisation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

5) Q: How do you arrange a test?

A: Parents/carers/staff can book a test for their children or themselves online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. They will be directed to their nearest walk-in/drive in centre. They can also request a home-test that can be posted – although this will take longer to get the result.

6) Q: What is a close contact?

A: A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). Please see the latest guidance below for more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Identifying close contacts of a positive case will help determine who may need to self-isolate for 14 days.

7) Q: When does the 10 days isolation period for a positive case start?

A: The 10 days begin from the first day of onset of symptoms, in an asymptomatic case this is from the date of test (which is their day zero)

8) Q: When does the 14 days isolation start for close contacts?

A: The 14 days **start** from the **last** time the pupil/staff member was in contact with the positive case, in or out of your setting. (This last contact counts as their day zero)

9) Q: What is counted as the 48 hour infection period?

A: Up to and including the two days before the first day of onset of symptoms e.g. If the symptoms of the positive case begin on a Saturday you should include contacts during Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and the 10 days after onset of symptoms.

10) Q: Where can Schools or Further Education Settings order more tests?

A: See link below for more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers#making-an-order-for-additional-coronavirus-tests>