



A reminder of the Covid-19 safety procedures

Procedures for limiting the spread of the virus. What to do if your child has one or more of the three 'main' Covid-19 symptoms

If your child has one or more of the main symptoms

- **High temperature**
- **New, continuous cough**
- **Loss or change of taste or sense of smell**

Both your child **and** your entire household needs to self-isolate. Book a test for your child and everyone needs to stay at home until the test result arrives. If your child tests positive they, along with the entire household, needs to self-isolate for 10 days – with Day Zero being either the day symptoms started OR if without symptoms, the day the test was taken. Day 10 is also spent in isolation until midnight at the end of day 10. If the test is negative everyone can end their isolation.

If your child develops one or more of the three main symptoms when they are at school

If your child develops any of the main symptoms whilst they are at school you will need to come and collect them immediately and book a test. Your child and your household will need to self-isolate and you will need to book a test for your child. Your child cannot return to school until they test negative, or if they test positive, until they and the household have completed the self-isolation period.

If your child has any of these wider symptoms, there is local guidance on what to do:

The information below is provided by Dudley Public Health.

Loss of Appetite	Sore Throat
Extreme Tiredness	Sneezing
Headaches	Diarrhoea (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school)
Joint Pain or Muscle Ache	Vomiting (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school)
Nausea	Runny Nose or Congestion

Individuals who have any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, new, continuous cough, loss or change of taste or sense of smell) must self-isolate (stay at home) immediately and book a Covid-19 test.

However, there are also a number of other, wider symptoms (see table above), which may be linked to Covid-19 infection, although these symptoms are also common in a number of other illnesses.

Dudley Council's Public Health team and the school are keen to make sure we are doing all we can to prevent any further cases and are therefore **recommending that all children and staff in education settings get a Covid-19 test as a precaution if they display any of these wider symptoms above.** Details of how to book a test are included below. Please note that:

- If your child has any of these **wider** symptoms (apart from diarrhoea and vomiting) **they can carry on attending their education setting if they are well enough to do so** and are not already self-isolating due to being a contact of a positive case.
- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they should not get tested for wider symptoms. However, they must self-isolate and seek a new test if they display any of the **three main Covid-19 symptoms**.
- If the test result is positive your child and your household must self-isolate for 10 days from their symptom onset date.
- If your child is currently self-isolating as a contact and the test result is negative, they must still continue their 10 day isolation period.
- If the test result is negative but your child then develops a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of taste or sense of smell they (and your household) must self-isolate and you must arrange another test for your child.

The Council's Public Health Team believes that this approach will help reduce transmission in the school and help maintain your child's education.

The national testing centres across the borough have good availability and tests can be booked through the [NHS website](#) or NHS Test & Trace App. When booking a test you will need to select *"My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms"*, if your child does not have one of the three **main** symptoms.

Please remember that even if your child tests negative now, should they develop a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of taste or sense of smell the household must self-isolate and your child will need to be retested. If your child tests positive, they must isolate for 10 days and your household must also isolate for 10 days. We hope you understand that this new measure is important to keep your family, the school and your local community safe.

If your child develops one of the wider symptoms whilst they are at school

If your child develops one or more of the wider symptoms we will contact you and recommend booking a test in line with the Dudley Public Health advice above. So long as they are well enough to stay at school they can do so and they can continue attending school unless the test comes back as negative.

What happens if there is a positive case in your child's class bubble

If there is a positive case in any of our class bubbles it will most likely be the case that all children and staff will be contacts of the positive case. Everyone will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the point of contact with the individual who has tested positive. During this time your child's teacher will provide daily live lessons from their own home via Microsoft Teams – just as we have done during the lockdown. If your child's teacher is unwell and unable to teach – we will provide work via Microsoft Teams and the daily email. Your child's teaching assistant will call you and your child throughout the isolation period.

Please note that if your child is a contact of a positive case at school – you and your household do not need to self-isolate – only the child who has been in contact with the positive case needs to stay at home.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable and is shielding

Please provide our attendance consultant, Mrs Emma O'Sullivan with a copy of the letter from your GP or NHS England that identifies your child as clinically extremely vulnerable. Emma will contact you to request this information. The school will provide remote education for your child through work packs, online activities and phone calls to speak to you and your child.

It would be very wise to make a plan for what to do if your child's class bubble has to isolate

The virus is still present and the new variants spread much more easily. It's possible that we will have positive cases in school and bubbles will need to self-isolate. Even though we are coming back to school – it's clear the virus will still present issues going forward. We recommend having a backup plan in place in case your child has to self-isolate

because if a positive case is identified, the children will have to go at home and / or stay at home with immediate effect.

Did you know you, your support bubble and your childcare bubble can ALL access FREE Lateral Flow Tests for adults? This really helps us to limit the spread of the virus at St Chad's and beyond

Parents and carers and anyone else living with a school age child or young person are among the priority groups being given access to free home lateral flow testing kits to test themselves.

Information on how to access these can be found on the [government website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff).
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All are strongly encouraged to have a lateral flow test at a local testing site prior to starting home testing, to know how a test is undertaken.

Twice weekly testing will help detect hidden asymptomatic cases and help keep pupils and staff safer in school. Anyone unable to do home testing can go to one of the Dudley lateral flow testing centres. These are at Dudley Leisure Centre, Saltwells Education Centre, with pop-up sessions at Holy Trinity Church Community Centre in Wordsley, Lifecentral Church in Halesowen, St Andrews Church in Sedgley, St James Church in Wollaston and the Salvation Army Church in Lye.

There is also testing at more than 30 pharmacies across the borough. Find out more on where you can [get a lateral flow test and book visit](https://www.dudley.gov.uk/symptom-free-testing).
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DFE Coronavirus Helpline

This is a really useful advice line from the Department for Education which can provide advice on all matters relating to self-isolation, childcare bubbles and the practicalities of bringing other children to school if you have a child who is self-isolating.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

For the parents and carers service, select option 2