

Addendum: attendance expectations in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) during the 2020 to 2021 academic year



Attendance expectations

From the start of the autumn term 2020 student attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, i.e. parents'/carers' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends school; student's duty to attend school.

New for 2020 to 2021 – not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Although school attendance is mandatory from the start of the autumn term, there are some circumstances where students cannot attend the school due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

To make sure the school records this accurately and consistently, we are following the changes made by the government to the regulation-governing school and school attendance registers to add a new category of non-attendance – 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)', but not in regard to a positive test. The mark will be 'X' – absent, with the addition of an individual student note saying the word: 'COVID' – meaning: absent for COVID 19 related reasons. If a student is off having had a positive test result, the mark will be 'I' with the addition of an individual student note: 'COVID' – unable to attend due to Positive COVID Test.

These categories must only be used to record sessions where a student does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, the School would be:

- contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Students who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)

Students who have symptoms should self-isolate and get a test.

If a student tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to School. If the student remains unwell following the test (such as with a different illness), then they will be marked as I – absent as would usually be the case.

If a student tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

If someone in the student's household has symptoms, the household should self-isolate and the member of their household with symptoms should get a test.

If the member of the household tests negative, the student can stop self-isolating and can return to School. If the household member tests positive, the student should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days from when the member of their household first had symptoms.

In all cases of self-isolation, the school will ask parents/carers to inform them immediately about the outcome of a test. The school will not require evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting students or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.

Students who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine

As usual, parents/carers should plan their holidays within school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time. Families/carers should also consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine on arrival in, or return to, the UK.

Local lockdown

If rates of the disease rise locally, schools may need to prevent some students from attending. The school will follow PHE or DHSC guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown. Where attendance is to be limited to certain groups, or the school is closed for exceptional circumstances (e.g. the school is closed for deep cleaning for the afternoon or your child's 'bubble' is needed to be closed due to a positive Covid-19 result), not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19) - Code 'Y'

Students who are clinically extremely vulnerable

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August 2020. This means that even the small number of students who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

Guidance sourced from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance/addendum-recording-attendance-in-relation-to-coronavirus-covid-19-during-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year>