

FAQs on COVID symptoms, self-isolation and testing - and what to tell the School

What should I do if my child begins to show COVID symptoms or feels unwell?

In terms of keeping everyone safe and well, it is an absolute priority for the School that symptomatic individuals do not come onto site. Therefore, please do not consider sending your child to school if he/she has any of the following COVID symptoms: a raised temperature; new, continuous cough; a loss or change to smell or taste. Moreover, because the virus can manifest in other ways first, please err on the side of caution; if your child seems to be “coming down with something”, please keep him/her at home.

Please inform us of your child’s illness using our COVID Absence Form which you will find in the Parent Portal

It is crucial that you [book a NHS test](#) for your child if he/she shows symptoms. He/she will need to isolate for 10 days (or until a negative test result is received), and everyone in his/her household and support bubble will need to isolate for 14 days- both periods starting from onset of symptoms.

What will happen if my child develops COVID symptoms while at school?

Should your child develop COVID symptoms while at School, he/she shall be looked after in the dedicated Isolation Room by a school nurse; the Medical Centre will ring you to ask you to collect your child immediately.

What if my child tests positive for COVID?

Please ring the Deputy Head on 01372 822434 / stuart.bachelor@freemens.org (or the Medical Centre on 01372 822451 if no reply). If your child has siblings on site, they will need to be collected immediately because they might be infectious.

As you will know, the national strategy involves ensuring not only that symptomatic individuals avoid contact with others, but also that those who have been in close contact with them while infectious should self-isolate as a precaution. In line with this, schools are obliged to let their local Health Protection Team know immediately if one of their pupils tests positive for coronavirus so that those in recent close contact can self-isolate. In line with the Government guidance, we shall only share the names and details of your son/daughter if doing so is essential in order to protect others.

What if my child tests negative for COVID?

Please let us know using the COVID Absence Form. Your child will be able to return to School immediately if he/she is well enough.

What if a member of our household or support bubble develops COVID symptoms or tests positive?

Everyone else in your household and support bubble will need to isolate for 14 days (starting from the onset of symptoms or the day of the test). Please let us know using the COVID Absence Form.

What will happen another child at Freeman’s tests positive for COVID?

If a Freeman's pupil (or indeed member of staff) tests positive, our local Health Protection Team will instruct us to send home any pupils or staff who have had close contact with him/her while infectious. This self-isolation lasts for 14 days from the last occasion of close contact. "Close contact" is defined as follows:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The measures that we are taking on site are focused on minimising the number of pupils and staff who would need to be sent home were a member of the community to test positive.

If a member of the school community tests positive and may have been infectious while on site, we shall let all parents know. However, in line with the Government guidance, we shall only share the names or details of individuals who have tested positive if doing so is essential to protect others.

Can my child return to school even though we've travelled abroad recently?

We know that it has been a fraught summer for families travelling abroad, with the [Government's list of countries with 'travel corridors'](#) constantly changing. If you have travelled from a country that requires 14-day quarantine and return to the UK on or after Thursday 20th August, your child will not be able to come to school until the quarantine period has elapsed. Please report this absence using the COVID Absence Form (it will count as an authorised absence).

To sum up, what COVID-related information do I need to share with the School?

In order to keep everyone safe and to do our bit to counter the spread of the virus nationally, we need to request certain COVID-related information about your son/daughter. Using our COVID Absence Form please let us know immediately if your child:

- has tested positive for COVID
- has tested negative for COVID
- is isolating because a household member or member of support bubble has tested positive
- has COVID symptoms
- is isolating because a household member or member of support bubble has COVID symptoms
- is isolating because NHS Test and Trace have said that he/she was in contact with a person outside school who has COVID
- is isolating on return from a country not exempted under quarantine rules
- is [clinically vulnerable](#)
- is [clinically extremely vulnerable](#)
- has a household member who is [clinically extremely vulnerable](#)