



# How to decide whether to keep your child off school during the pandemic

If you are worried that your child is seriously ill, or has symptoms that are seriously concerning you then please seek urgent medical attention. However, if symptoms are mild and you have no serious concerns, please use this flowchart to help with deciding how to proceed.



Would you have kept your child off school before COVID-19?

**YES**

Keep your child off school as you normally would do. Do they have any of these symptoms?

**NO**

Do they have:

- 1) A new continuous cough? **OR**
- 2) A fever (high temperature greater than 37.8 degrees measured by a thermometer)? **OR**
- 3) A complete loss or change of smell and/or taste?

Keep your child off school and at home. Call 119 or go to the [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) website and arrange for a self-test for COVID-19 to be done. (Please note your GP and A&E cannot arrange a test)

Your child and your household must self-isolate until you have the result of this test. If there are no tests currently available in your area you will need to keep your child off school and follow the current government guidance on self-isolation.

**YES**

**NO**

Does your child have an underlying chronic medical condition?

**YES**

**NO**

A 'continuous cough' is defined currently as coughing for at least three hours a day. This is difficult to determine in a child. Any child who is coughing a lot throughout the day and night has a continuous cough. There can also be a very small percentage of children who may develop a fever later.

Speak to their specialist team about testing criteria if you haven't already seen or spoken to them or had a letter in the post telling you what to do.

Children who are otherwise well and don't have a fever but do have:  
  
A runny nose **OR** sore throat **OR** mild cold without a fever **can go to school as normal**

