

## School attendance and absence- Update from DfE 07/01/2022

School attendance will continue to be **mandatory** for all pupils from 1 September 2021 and appropriate coding will resume with few exceptions. This includes the process surrounding term-time leave and non-school attendance.

### Attendance expectations:

From September 2021, attendance is mandatory. The usual rules on attendance will continue to apply, including:

- parents/carers' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absences; including penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

### FAQs

Status	Attend School	Attendance Code	DFE guidance notes
Child required to self-isolate due to having symptoms, but have not tested positive	No	X	
Child tests positive following LFT/LFD or PCR test	No, PCR test no longer required to confirm accuracy of LFT/LFD	I	From 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 PCR is suspended. Isolation starts on date of test (day 0) LFD on day 6 and day 7 with negative results and no symptoms, pupil can return to school on day 8
Child tests negative following symptoms	Yes		If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school. If the pupil remains unwell following the test (such as with a different illness), then they should be recorded as code I
Child test negative, but feels unwell and unable to return to school	No	I or O	School may request evidence to support the absence and move to attendance interventions where necessary
Child confirmed with CV19	No	I	
Parent/carer tests positive or is advised to isolate by NHS Test and Trace	Yes		
Child has failed to return to the UK and the school accepts the reason for the delay	No	Y	If a child is unable to travel back to the UK from overseas, but the reason is accepted by the school and evidenced by the parent/carer the school can keep the child on roll.
Child required to quarantine after returning from or through a red list country in the previous 10 days before arrival	No	X	

Return from any other country	Yes (possibly delay until day 3 following test IF taken*)	If positive result I code Children do not need to quarantine on return	
Child is a close contact with someone with symptoms or confirmed case	YES, but should take daily LFD test for 7 days	X	Pupils who are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 <b>do not</b> need to self-isolate. The child should take daily LFD tests for 7 days to ensure no infection and if positive at any time to isolate for the relevant period taking the positive result as day 0
Child is clinically vulnerable	Yes, unless evidenced	Normal attendance codes unless evidence received from professional to isolate then use Code X,	
Child advised not to attend as part of restrictions on education set out by Government	No	X	
Child not attending in line with advice from Directors of Public Health as part of outbreak management	No	X	
Child is contacted by NHS Test and Trace.	Yes, LFD for 7 days or single PCR test	X	There is no requirement for anyone under the age of 18 years and 6 months, regardless of vaccination status , to self-isolate whilst awaiting the results of a PCR test where they have been a close contact, it is recommended that they take daily LFD tests for 7 days
Parent/carer is contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate for 10 days	Yes, unless tested positive or showing symptoms	Yes, unless tested positive or showing symptoms	
Parent informs that child is self-isolating and unable to take PCR test	School to make decision on whether they believe the veracity of the illness for coding or attendance	X or O	Schools can request supporting evidence from the family. Where the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence, they may record this using one of the unauthorised absence codes, in line with attendance interventions.

Please note that the information above was correct at the time of publishing and can be updated/amended by the Government at any time