

You may have seen that some schools in Stockton-on-Tees have reported Covid cases.

Below is important advice on steps you need to take if anyone in your household shows the symptoms of Covid. Following this advice will help keep yourself and others safe and restrict the spread of the virus.

If your son/daughter or anyone in your household is showing the symptoms of Covid, all members of the household need to isolate immediately and the person with symptoms should have a Covid test.

The symptoms of Covid are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

All members of the household must also isolate until the result of the test is back. Please alert your son/daughters college if you have taken them for a test (**and only access a COVID test for individuals if they develop symptoms**)

Isolation means you should stay at home. Do not go to work, go out shopping or take your children to school/college. You will need to make arrangements for family or friends to help out. You should not socialise or have any visitors to your home

If the test of the person with symptoms is negative, then no-one needs to isolate.

If the test of the person with symptoms is positive then the person who has tested positive for Covid must isolate for 10 days and everyone else in the house must isolate for 14 days. Parents/carers should make schools/educational settings and workplaces aware of any positive test.

Testing is available locally. Anyone with any of the coronavirus symptoms is advised to book a test online **www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test** or by calling **119**.

For further information about Covid, please call 111 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus

