Schools & Early Years

My child is in a bubble that has been asked to isolate. Do siblings and other household members have to isolate too?

No. Based on the current guidance, it is only the children and staff in an identified bubble that are required to stay home and isolate. This is because it is only these people who have been identified as possibly having contact with the confirmed case in the infectious period. Siblings and other household members do not need to isolate as they have not had close contact with the confirmed case. They can continue to attend school and nursery settings. At this stage, this means they remain a contact of a contact.

My child is in a bubble that has been asked to isolate and they have now developed symptoms. What should I do?

If your child is isolating as a bubble contact and has developed one of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 (a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, or change or loss of sense of smell of taste) then the whole household should now isolate and you should arrange for your child to be tested.

The household and your child should start isolation of 14 days for household members and 10 days for the child with symptoms at least until the test result is known. If the result of your child is negative then then household may stop isolating, but the child must see out the original 14-day isolation period as a contact.

My child has been told to isolate because of contact with a confirmed case. Should I have them tested?

No. You should only arrange a test for your child if they have one of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19. The symptoms are a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or loss or change to sense of taste or smell.

Your child does not need to get a test if they do not have one of these symptoms.

My child is isolating because of contact with a confirmed case, if I have them tested and the result is negative, can they stop isolating?

No. If your child has been asked to isolate, they must do so for the full 14 days even if they

have had a negative test result. This is because the virus can take up to 14 days to develop.

My household is isolating because one of us had symptoms, they have been tested and their result has come back negative. Can we stop isolating?

Yes. If you are isolating because a member of your household had symptoms but then received a negative test result, then the household and the symptomatic household member can stop isolating. Children should only return to school though if they are well, and they have not had a temperature for 48 hours.

A parent of a pupil in my child's class has tested positive. Should my child be isolating?

No. It is not necessary for your child to isolate at this stage unless they are identified as a close contact for any reason. The parent's children should isolate if they are within the same household or they have had contact 2 days before and 10 days after symptoms starting. Your child remains a contact of a contact at this point.

Another pupil in my child's class is isolating waiting for a test. Should my child now be isolating too?

No. Your child does not need to isolate until a positive test result is received.

