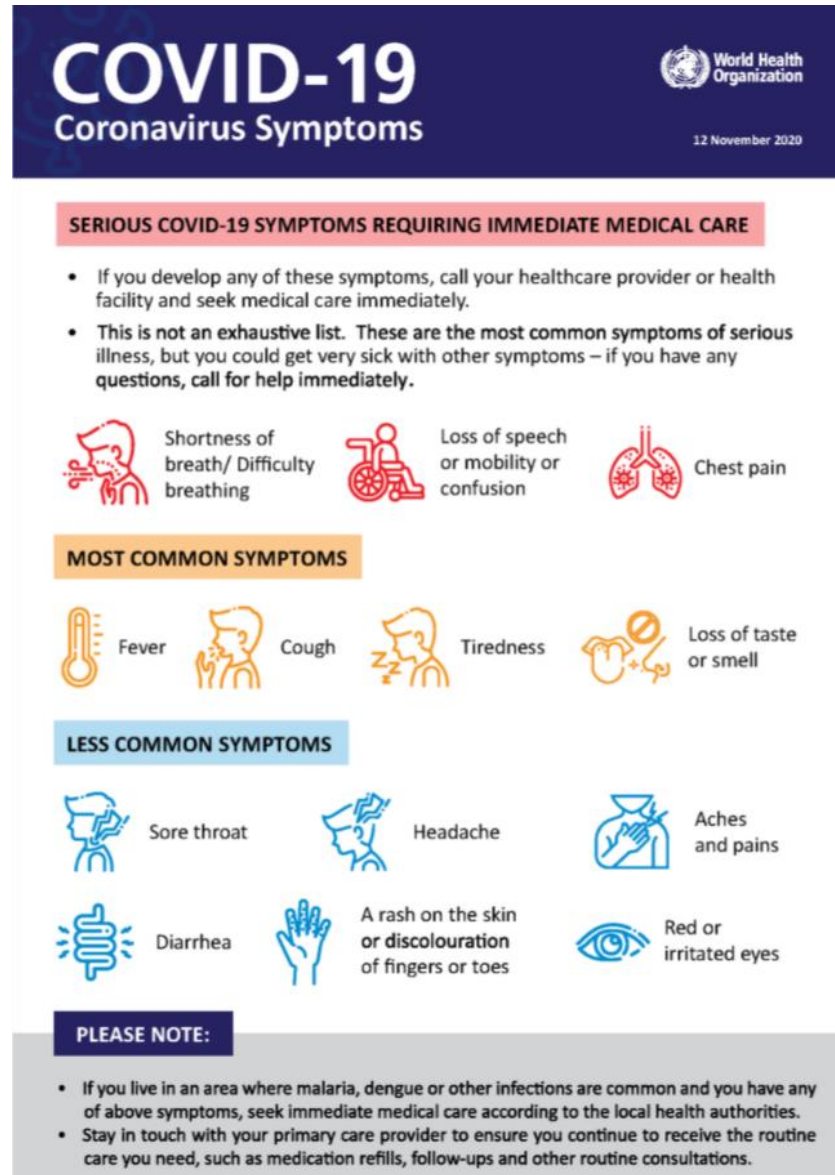


Standard Operating Procedure for the management of COVID-19 symptoms for education and childcare settings for academic year 2021/22
(nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges) – Version 9 27/01/2022

Symptoms of COVID-19

The Council website is regularly updated to reflect government advice here <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/emergencies/covid-19-advice/government-advice/>

The most recent WHO poster (NOV 2020) is below. Updates can be accessed here <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>



COVID-19
Coronavirus Symptoms

World Health Organization
12 November 2020

SERIOUS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE

- If you develop any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider or health facility and seek medical care immediately.
- This is not an exhaustive list. These are the most common symptoms of serious illness, but you could get very sick with other symptoms – if you have any questions, call for help immediately.

Shortness of breath/ Difficulty breathing Loss of speech or mobility or confusion Chest pain

MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS

Fever Cough Tiredness Loss of taste or smell

LESS COMMON SYMPTOMS

Sore throat Headache Aches and pains

Diarrhea A rash on the skin or discolouration of fingers or toes Red or irritated eyes

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you live in an area where malaria, dengue or other infections are common and you have any of above symptoms, seek immediate medical care according to the local health authorities.
- Stay in touch with your primary care provider to ensure you continue to receive the routine care you need, such as medication refills, follow-ups and other routine consultations.

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms you should stay at home and self-isolate immediately.
- If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms, but you have a positive test result, you must stay at home and self-isolate

It is important to note that:

- **On Wednesday 19 January** the Prime Minister announced that from **Thursday 27 January**, face coverings will no longer be recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. Face coverings are already no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. The [contingency framework](#) has been updated to reflect these changes.
- **From 17th January** in England people can stop self-isolating at the start of day 6 if they get 2 negative rapid lateral flow test results on days 5 and 6 and do not have a temperature. Tests must be at least 24 hours apart. If either test is positive, people must wait 24 hours before testing again. **This includes individuals who are not vaccinated.**
 - Take two lateral flow tests on subsequent days, at least a full 24 hours apart, with the first test on day 5 of their isolation period, followed by day 6.
 - Have negative results on both these days and do not have a high temperature.
 - NB refer to flow chart on page 11 ensuring the day 0 rule is applied to ensure that day 5 and 6 are correct
- **From 11th January** in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. There are a few exceptions see ** below
 - This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.
 - Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should report their result on GOV.UK and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

** People who have a positive LFD test result should only have a follow-up PCR test if:

- they wish to claim the [Test and Trace Support Payment](#)
 - they have a health condition that means they may be suitable for new coronavirus (COVID-19) treatments
 - they are taking LFD tests as part of research or surveillance programmes, and the programme asks them to do so
 - they have a positive day 2 LFD test [after arriving in England](#)
- **From 14 December 2021** adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine
- Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts
- Testing for the less common symptoms remains voluntary and settings cannot require individuals with these symptoms to get a test. Individuals with any of these other symptoms (apart from diarrhoea and vomiting) **can carry on attending their setting** if they are well enough to do so.
- Individuals should not do another PCR test within 90 days of your positive result. This is because it is possible for tests to remain positive for some time after infection. However, they must self-isolate and seek a new test if they have any new symptoms of COVID-19 or get a positive LFT result.

The national testing centres across the borough have good availability and tests can be booked through the [NHS website](#) or NHS Test & Trace App. Individuals booking a test due to wider symptoms will need to select *“My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms”*. You can also order LFT tests here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>