

20 September 2020

Dear parents and carers

Schools and Covid

Schools are now open for the autumn term, and have welcomed back all the children.

If your child becomes unwell, you may sometimes find it hard to decide whether it is okay to send them in to school.

The children's doctors in North West London have come up with advice to help you decide whether to send your children in to school (see below).

Where the guidance says 'high temperature' that means 37.8 degrees centigrade or higher.

Remember

- If your child has COVID-19 symptoms, keep home from school. Dial 119 or use www.gov.uk/coronavirus for a COVID test. Self-isolate until you have the results.
- If no test is possible, isolate as per government guidelines. GPs/A&E can't provide COVID testing or a letter to allow return to school.
- Make sure your children are up to date with all their childhood immunisations (jabs), as diseases like measles and mumps are still around. If you aren't sure whether they're up to date with their jabs, ask your GP or practice nurse.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicola Lang MBBS (Lond) FFPH

Should I send my child to school?

A guide for parents and GPs

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

YES

NO

Keep your child off school

A "continuous cough" is coughing A LOT throughout the day and night, and is different from the cough that usually comes with a runny nose

Does your child have at least one of the following:

- A new continuous cough?
- A fever (high temperature measured with a thermometer)?
- A complete loss or change of taste or smell?

YES

NO

Are you concerned this is more serious than a cold (e.g. sepsis)?

YES

NO

Contact your GP, or call NHS 111 for medical advice. For urgent medical help, go to your nearest A&E or call 999

Monitor your child's condition at home, and seek medical advice if the condition deteriorates

Protect others: keep your child at home and off school. Dial 119 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus to arrange a COVID test. These tests not available at A&E or GP. Your child and household must self-isolate until you have the results

Does your child have an underlying medical condition, such as cystic fibrosis?

YES

NO

Speak to your child's specialist team about testing criteria if you haven't already spoken to them / received a letter telling you what to do

Children can otherwise go to school with: Runny noses, sore throats (without fever), or mild colds

For further guidance, visit:

<https://www.cc4c.imperial.nhs.uk/~media/cc4c/documents/icht-advice-for-parents-during-coronavirus.pdf?la=en>

Published 18th September 2020