

Coronavirus Guidance for Consortium Trust Schools – pupils who have been specifically advised by their GP or clinician not to attend an education setting

This information is correct as at 19 October 2020

1. This guidance document has been written to clarify the **government** guidance on what schools should do if a child is under paediatric or other specialist care and **has been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend an education setting**. Key sections are highlighted in yellow.
2. This document contains information from the following three documents:
 - a) DfE guidance '[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)' (updated 16 October 2020)
 - b) DHSC/PHE guidance [Covid19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) (updated 15 October 2020)
 - c) DfE Daily Update email:
From: DfE information [mailto:dfе.information@notifications.service.gov.uk]
Sent: 15 October 2020 14:00
Subject: 15 October – Coronavirus – Daily update to all early years, children's social care, schools and further education providers

a) Extract from [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#) below in italics:

Attendance at school and college

It is vital that children and young people return to school and college, for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly.

There is not a corresponding legal duty for post-16 education but if a young person fails to attend, their college may believe they have left the course.

Local authorities and schools have a range of [legal powers to enforce attendance](#) if a child or young person misses school without a valid reason.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school or college because you consider they may have other risk factors, you should discuss these with your school or college. They should be able to explain ways they are changing things to reduce risks. There are resources to support you with these conversations, including this leaflet on [returning to school after a period of absence](#).

Self-isolation and shielding

A small number of children and young people may be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they:

- *are self-isolating*
- *have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves*
- *are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)*

If your child is unable to attend school or college for these reasons, ask your school or college what support they can provide for remote education.

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Shielding advice for all adults and children was paused from 1 August. This means that children and young people can return to school or college if they:

- are on the shielded patient list
- have family members who are shielding

See the [guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) for the current advice.

Children and young people under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school or college. This should usually be at their next planned clinical appointment.

If children are not able to attend school because they are following clinical and/or public health advice, you will not be penalised.

b) Extract from the DHSC/PHE guidance [Covid19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) below in italics:

General advice for clinically extremely vulnerable people at all local COVID alert levels

School

The UK Chief Medical Officers have issued a [statement on schools and childcare reopening](#) which states that there is a very low rate of severe disease in children from COVID-19. Schools have their own measures in place to limit the risk of transmission which can be found in [guidance on reopening of schools](#).

All pupils and students should continue to attend education settings at all local COVID alert levels unless they are one of the very small number of pupils or students under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend an education setting.

c) Extract from the DFE Daily Update email below in italics:

New guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people

The Department of Health and Social Care has provided new [guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) from coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). The guidance is less restrictive than previous shielding guidance and includes advice at each Local COVID Alert Level.

What does this mean for clinically extremely vulnerable pupils?

1. clinically extremely vulnerable pupils should continue to attend education settings at all Local COVID Alert Levels
2. a very small number of pupils or students under paediatric care (such as recent transplant or very immunosuppressed children) who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend school, should not attend. Absence for this reason can be recorded in the attendance register as: 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)' – code X. Remote education should be provided immediately.

Please note, these cases are likely to be very rare. In such cases, the school should always ask for a written copy of the specific medical advice evidence. The school should also ask for consent to liaise with the medical professional, where they think this may be helpful.

Please contact Nigel Shaddick HOSWISA, for advice on any individual cases, by emailing hoswisa@consortiumacademy.org or phone: 07899958082

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