

## **Recording attendance in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) during the 2021 to 2022 academic year**

The DfE has issued amended regulations to enable schools, in the 2021 to 2022 academic year, to continue to record where a pupil does not attend in circumstances relating to COVID-19.

### **Attendance expectations**

Attendance is mandatory. The usual rules on attendance continue to apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct
- the duty on local authorities to put in place arrangements for identifying, and to follow up with, children missing education

### **Not attending in circumstances relating to COVID-19**

This category must be used to record sessions that take place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year where a pupil does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be:

- contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of COVID-19 from Public Health England (PHE), or its successor UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of COVID-19

This category must only be used to record where a pupil is not attending for the reasons set out above. It should not be used to record any other type of non-attendance or absence - for example, where a parent or pupil is anxious about attending school because of COVID-19.

The schools COVID-19 operational guidance sets out when pupils should self-isolate and when they ought to be tested in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

Examples in which 'not attending in circumstances relating to COVID-19' could apply

In line with current legislation, and guidance from PHE (and its successor the UKHSA) and DHSC, examples are as follows.

- Pupils who are required to self-isolate as they have symptoms or confirmed COVID-19
- Pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, should self-isolate and get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

**If the pupil remains unwell following the test (such as with a different illness), then they should be recorded as code I (illness).**

**Code X should only be used up until the time of the negative test result. Schools should not retrospectively change the attendance register due to a negative test result.**

**If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance. Code X should be used for the period of self-isolation until the test.**

**After the pupil tests positive, they should be recorded as code I (illness) until they are able to return to school.**

Pupils who are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed COVID-19

**Pupils who** are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to self-isolate. They should instead get a PCR test, and should only self-isolate if they test positive. If they do **test positive**, they **should be recorded as code I (illness) until they are able to return to school.**

Pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine

As usual, parents should plan their holidays within school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time. Families should also consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine. **If a pupil is required to be in quarantine on arrival in, or return to, the UK, the school should use code X in the register.**

Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable when shielding is advised

Clinically extremely vulnerable people are no longer advised to shield. All clinically extremely vulnerable pupils should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

If shielding is advised nationally or in a local area again, by DHSC, PHE or UKHSA, then pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable may be advised not to attend school. **Non-attendance in accordance with guidance from DHSC, PHE or UKHSA should be recorded as code X.**

Pupils who are self-isolating but who have not had a PCR test

In line with public health advice, pupils with symptoms must self-isolate and schools should strongly encourage pupils to take a PCR test. **Where the pupil is unable to take a PCR test, the school should record the pupil as code X in the register.**

Schools should follow up with families if they are not satisfied with the reason as to why the pupil is not in school. Schools can request supporting evidence from the family. Where the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence, they may record this using one of the unauthorised absence codes, in line with the school attendance: guidance for schools.

### **Remote education**

If a pupil is not attending school because their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19, we expect schools to offer them access to remote education. Schools should keep a record of, and monitor engagement with, this activity, but this does not need to be tracked in the attendance register.

## COVID-19 - Covid Attendance Codes for academic year 2021

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the Covid-19 attendance sub-codes to be used for the 2021 Academic Year, to help schools complete the educational settings status form. The Covid Attendance Figures report has been amended to reflect these new codes.

	Code	Description	When should this code be used?
<b>X</b>	X01	Non-compulsory school aged pupil not expected to be in school	Sessions non-compulsory school aged children are not expected to attend
	X02	Self-isolating Covid-19 symptoms	Pupils self-isolating because they have symptoms of coronavirus but they have not yet had a positive test
	X05	Quarantine	Pupil required to be in quarantine, on arrival in, or on return to, the UK
	X06	Shielding	Pupils who have been identified as clinically vulnerable and advised that they should not attend school
	X07	Government restrictions	To be used for national restrictions to education in line with Government advice
	X08	Advised by PHE not to attend	To be used for local restrictions to education settings in line with advice from Directors of Public Health
	X09	NHS Test and Trace required self-isolation	For pupils required to self-isolate, due to contact with a confirmed case, by NHS Test and Trace
<b>Illness</b>			
<b>I</b>	I01	Illness	Pupil absent due to non-coronavirus related illness
	I02	Illness – confirmed case of Covid-19	For pupils with a confirmed case of coronavirus

There is no requirement for children or young people under the age of 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccine status, to self-isolate whilst awaiting the results of their PCR test where they have been a close contact. The X09 code therefore is for students older than 18 years and 6 months.

Two former X sub-codes have now been archived and are no longer available for use:

X03 - Self-isolating: contact inside school

X04 - Self-isolating: contact outside school

### DfE attendance return

**The educational setting status form should be submitted by all schools to the DfE by 2pm every day.**

**The DfE provides the Local Authority with access to the attendance data for educational settings in North Yorkshire. In order to ensure a full and comprehensive**

**data set, and to enable the LA to safeguard vulnerable pupils, all schools are expected to submit their daily return to the DfE by the specified time.**

Please note, from Friday 1st October 2021, the education settings status form will move from daily reporting to weekly to reduce the time schools and colleges spend completing it. This will be kept under review, and should the national situation require, daily reporting may be reinstated.