



[Home](#) > [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) > [Education and childcare during coronavirus](#)
 > [Closures, exams and managing a school or early years setting during coronavirus](#)
 > [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for boarding schools with international students](#)

Part of [Education and childcare during coronavirus](#)



Department for Education

Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for residential educational settings with international students under the age of 18

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Contents

[Who this guidance is for](#)
[What to do when students arrive in the UK](#)
[Travel corridors](#)
[The first 14 days in the UK](#)
[After the first 14 days in the UK](#)
[What to do if students in residential settings develop coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)

Who this guidance is for

This guidance is for owners and managers of boarding schools. It contains advice on the collection, transfer and isolation of students aged under 18 entering the UK and travelling to a named boarding school or a named household.

It covers guidance on:

- what to do when students arrive in the UK
- travel corridors
- the first 14 days in the UK
- after the first 14 days in the UK
- what to do if students in residential settings develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

What to do when students arrive in the UK

All boarding schools should have a policy setting out arrangements for students coming to the school. This should include the collection and transfer of students entering the UK and the isolation of students if applicable.

Boarding school students who are travelling to the UK must follow the arrangements set out in [guidance on entering the UK](#). This means that their parent or guardian, will, as appropriate, need to [complete the Public Health passenger locator form](#) before the student travels and [provide their journey and contact details](#).

For students travelling straight to a boarding school in England, when they arrive in the UK the student should be met by a representative of the school or a family member/friend/guardian and taken straight to the boarding school they will be attending. The student can self-isolate, if they need to, at their boarding school – see further information in [the first 14 days in the UK section](#).

Where boarding students are staying with another household in England before travelling to their boarding school, such as with a sponsor (host family), at the home of a family member or friend, or at home, they should be met on arrival and taken straight there. Follow the guidance on [how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#) if required.

Tier 4 students who would ordinarily be required to register with the police should refer to [Home Office guidance](#).

Students should avoid public transport and only use it if there is no other option. If they do use public transport, those aged 11 and over must wear a [face covering](#), understand how to put on and remove the face covering, ensure their hands are kept clean and stay 2 metres apart from other people where possible.

If students develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms when travelling to the UK, they should tell the crew or driver on the plane, boat, train or bus. They will let staff in the airport, port or station know, so they can tell them what they should do next when they arrive. The school will need to have plans in place to safely transfer the student if this occurs. Guidance for schools on [isolation for residential educational settings](#) provides advice on isolation, which will help schools prepare an isolation policy.

Travel corridors

Students will not have to self-isolate if they are arriving in England from a country or territory on the [travel corridors list](#). They will still, however, have to [provide their journey and contact details](#).

Students will still be required to self-isolate if they have visited or stopped in any country that is not on the list in the previous 14 days.

The first 14 days in the UK

Schools need to have travel plans in place, including arrangements for the collection and transfer of students and their isolation if required. These need to be explained to students and their parents before they travel.

Students should follow the guidance on [how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#) if required. If students do need to isolate upon their arrival, the school will need to:

- put in place arrangements for the oversight of students in isolation that protect the safety and welfare of all students and staff, minimising the school staff who interact with the students and keeping isolating students apart from other students at the school
- ensure that students who are permitted to isolate together (for example, where they have travelled together), only do so in small groups of up to 6 students
- ensure they stay in a well-ventilated room with a window to the outside that can be opened
- put in place arrangements to bring meals and other essential commodities, such as toiletries, to the area where isolation is occurring
- ensure an isolating student uses a separate bathroom from the rest of the boarding house where possible – if students have to share these facilities, regular cleaning will be required after any isolating student has used them
- make sure there are separate towels from other students in the boarding house, both for drying after bathing or showering and for hand-hygiene purposes
- have regard to [keeping children safe in education](#) when making arrangements for the isolation of students

Schools will need to undertake their own risk assessments about how to isolate students safely. Guidance for schools on [isolation for residential educational settings](#) provides advice about isolation. Schools can seek advice from [Public Health England's local health protection teams](#) if needed.

Where schools wish to commence the education of any self-isolating students during the first 14 days in the UK, this may only be done where it would be consistent with the student maintaining their self-isolation.

Students must not leave the place they are self-isolating during the first 14 days, except in very limited circumstances. These are explained in the guidance on [how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#).

The school should have procedures in place, agreed in advance with parents, setting out what it will do in the case of an emergency.

After the first 14 days in the UK

If students do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms after 14 days, they can leave self-isolation and follow the same rules as people who live in the UK. The rules for those living in [England](#) are available.

What to do if students in residential settings develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

Refer to the guidance for schools on [isolation for residential educational settings](#) for advice on what to do if a student develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

Is this page useful? [Yes](#) [No](#)

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

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[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Services](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[News and communications](#)

[Research and statistics](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

