

Guidance on Children who have underlying health conditions returning to school

Children and Young People

In relation to a return to school children and young people fall into 3 categories. They are shielding and clinically extremely vulnerable (extremely higher risk); they are living with someone who is shielding and clinically extremely vulnerable; or they are clinically vulnerable (higher risk). Further information can be found <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-physical-distancing>

Children and young people who are shielding and are clinically extremely vulnerable should NOT attend school at this time.

Those who are shielding are extremely clinically vulnerable and require a different set of measures to keep them safe. People with serious underlying health conditions are strongly advised to follow shielding measures to keep themselves safe and **not to attend school in person**. The most up to date guidance and list of underlying health conditions that necessitate shielding should be checked on [the NHS Inform website under the shielding section](#).

Children and young people who are living with someone who is shielding or is clinically extremely vulnerable should NOT attend school at this time.

Children and young people who have household members who are at very high risk of severe illness (requiring 'shielding') should only attend school or nursery if they are able to stringently adhere to physical distancing. As such children will require an individual risk assessment before the most appropriate place of care is determined, I would advise, at this stage, that they **do not attend school unless absolutely necessary** and that individual risk assessments are completed for an August start.

Children and young people living with someone who is clinically vulnerable CAN attend school or nursery at this time.

If a child or young person lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend school or nursery.

Children and young people who are clinically vulnerable CAN attend school or nursery at this time (subject to notes below)

A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

However, generally children who fall into this category can now attend school. The guidance clearly states that "children can usually continue to attend if they have mild underlying health conditions, as specified in the guidance on NHS inform". I would ask that where this is the case, you make parents aware that they need to inform you of any health conditions so that any concerns can be addressed. From the school's perspective, you will make every effort to ensure, as will be the case for all children, that social distancing advice and good hygiene practices will be followed. However, it is for the parent to decide whether to send their child to school or not.