

To parents and carers of preschool children

2020-11-24

How long to keep children at home when they have symptoms

Dear parents and carers

Many of you have been asking how long you should keep children at home for when they are ill. We clarify the guidance below.

When can a child attend preschool and when should they be at home when they have various symptoms that could be a sign of COVID-19?

It is important that children stay at home and do not come to preschool if they are ill. This is the case for every illness. There are short-term infections and long-term infections and how long children should stay at home will depend on how long they are ill for.

If your child has a minor issue that does not last long

Sometimes children of preschool age, age 1–6, have a minor issue that does not last long, which is not a sign of illness. In such cases there is no need to stay at home from preschool or childcare. Examples might be coughing once or having a runny nose after being outside. In other words, an issue that is soon over.

If your child has symptoms lasting less than 24 hours

Sometimes children get short-term illnesses lasting less than 24 hours. For example, you might be asked to collect your child from preschool due to mild symptoms. If the symptoms do not develop into an infection and your child has no symptoms the following day, they must stay at home and remain at home for 48 hours without symptoms before coming back to preschool.

If your child has symptoms lasting longer than 24 hours

If your child has had symptoms for more than 24 hours, they must stay at home for at least 7 days and have no high temperature for 48 hours before returning to preschool.

If your child has been at home for 7 days due to an infection

Children who have been at home from preschool for 7 days due to an infection and who have recovered can return to school or preschool. They can return to school at this point even if they still have mild symptoms such as a runny nose or a cough. It is not unusual to continue having a runny nose or a cough after a cold and for some

children, these mild symptoms can linger for several weeks. This does not prevent them from attending preschool.

The municipality's website norrkoping.se has updated information if you have a child at school or in preschool. See: www.norrkoping.se/information-om-det-nya-coronaviruset/har-du-barn-i-norrkopings-forskola-skola.html

Best wishes
Education Office