

If any member of your household has any of these symptoms below you must have a coronavirus test.



Coughing

A new and continuous cough, usually dry, is one of the most common Covid symptoms.

The NHS describes it as coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes within 24 hours.

High temperature

A high temperature is described by the NHS as feeling hot to touch on the chest or back.

While a high temperature is described as 38C or greater.

Loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Another common symptom of Covid-19, according to the NHS, is not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Sneezing and runny or blocked nose, with none of the above symptoms, are likely to be a cold.

For those who are sneezing or have a runny or blocked nose (if no other symptoms of a cough, temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell develop) it is likely to be a cold.

Prof Spector said a runny nose, congestion or sneezing is “a sign that you absolutely do not have Covid”.

The RCPCH advised that children with simple cold symptoms such as a runny nose or sore throats **without fever** should not be tested for Covid-19. However, if any of

the other symptoms develop (cough, fever, loss of sense of taste or smell) then you would need to be tested for covid.

Symptoms in different age groups

Research has found that one in six children who tested positive for Covid-19 also presented with an unusual skin rash.

Prof Spector said that of children who tested positive and had symptoms, around half did not have any of the three main signs listed by the NHS, while a third of the children in the research showed no symptoms.

Data on adults showed fatigue, headache, loss of smell, persistent cough and sore throat were common among adults.

Prof Spector said around 80% of people across all age groups who use the symptom tracker app, which has more than four million users, reported severe headaches and tiredness in the first week of illness.

He said shortness of breath was less common among children.

However, some people who become infected do not develop any symptoms and do not feel unwell.

Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure and loss of speech or movement are the most serious symptoms, according to the WHO, which require immediate medical attention

(Professor Tim Spector, from King's College London, who is leading the Covid Symptom Study app, guidance 17th September, 2020)