

## JCQ special consideration guidance

JCQ have released updated Special Considerations Guidance to cover COVID-19 for Summer 2022. The guidance has been created in line with the latest UKHSA guidance. Candidates should be encouraged to attend examinations as much as possible and where it is safe to do so in line with Government guidelines.

However, in circumstances where a candidate who is staying at home and avoiding contact with others, in line with UKHSA guidance, at the time of the examination, is considered to be absent from the examination for an acceptable reason and would be eligible for special considerations. This includes candidates who are displaying the symptoms described in the UKHSA guidance as advising them to stay at home (e.g. a high temperature for those aged 18 and under) as well as those with a positive COVID-19 test result. Where a candidate still wishes to attend an examination, despite having symptoms (e.g. a high temperature) or a positive COVID-19 test, the centre should encourage the candidate to follow the UKHSA's guidance.

The JCQ awarding bodies will be adapting Form I4 - JCQ/ME - Self-certification for candidates who have missed an examination to assist centres in dealing with candidates who are absent from an examination for an acceptable reason in line with the UKHSA guidance. Centres will expect parents, carers and candidates to complete the relevant sections of the form. Centres can verify the candidate's circumstances, where provided in Form I4, to process an application for special consideration using the category 'absent candidate'. There is no requirement for a candidate to complete a COVID-19 test to provide evidence of their absence from an examination.

JCQ will be releasing a further set of FAQs but examples can be found on pages 20-21 of the guide.