



Parents' guide to Covid-19

What should I do?

Do not send your child to school if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus

You will need to:

1. Isolate your child. This means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible. Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.
2. Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test.
3. Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a coronavirus test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.
4. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

If a student displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- Parent/ Guardian is contacted immediately.
- The Principal or Deputy Principal is contacted immediately and the student is escorted to the isolation room via the isolation route, keeping at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic student. If it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2m a staff member caring for a student should wear a face covering or mask. Gloves should not be used as the virus does not pass through skin.
- The student should wear their mask at all times and wait in the *Isolation room.
- The child should be cared for appropriately by a staff member whilst they are waiting to go home. If the toilet is required the student should be directed to a single toilet which should be locked afterwards for cleaning. The student should be facilitated if they need to call their parent for support. The isolation space and toilet should be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected when vacated

*The school meeting room is the designated isolation area that has been identified within the school building. If more than one person display signs of COVID-19, the curricular room will be used as a second isolation room. The designated isolation area is behind a closed door and away from other staff and students.

Parent/ Guardian duties;

- Parent/guardian to arrange for the student to be collected. Public transport of any kind should not be used.
- Phone your child's GP and advise them of your child's symptoms and they will inform you what to do next.

*If GP **does not advise** a test*

- Your child should remain at home until 48hrs after the symptoms subside.

*If GP **advises** a test*

- If the GP of the child has assessed the symptoms to be consistent with Covid-19 infection and the person is referred for a test, at this point the person becomes a suspected Covid-19 case.
- Any siblings should be withdrawn from school by their parent or guardian at this point.

If your child is tested and receives a Positive Result

When a case has been confirmed, the Medical Officer of Health and teams will liaise directly with the school and inform them of the confirmed case as necessary and will undertake a Public Health Risk Assessment to inform any further actions and recommendations.

If your child is tested and receives a Negative Result ('Not detected' result)

Where no evidence of Covid-19 is detected by the test, the child should remain at home only until he or she is clinically well enough to return to school (unless specifically requested by HSE to do otherwise). **In particular, all symptoms need to have been resolved for 48 hours prior to return to school.** Other siblings who do not have symptoms can return to school immediately following the receipt by the parent or guardian or staff member of a negative test result.

Symptoms	Coronavirus <small>Symptoms range from mild to severe</small>	Cold <small>Gradual onset of symptoms</small>	Flu <small>Abrupt onset of symptoms</small>
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Cough	Common* (Usually Dry)	Mild	Common* (Usually Dry)
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Aches and Pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Sore Throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 Shortness of Breath	Sometimes	No	No
 Runny or Stuffy Nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
 Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes for Children
 Sneezing	No	Common	No