

Monday 8 March 2021

## Re: Confirmed case of COVID-19 in your child's school.

A confirmed case of COVID-19 in your child's school has been notified to the Department of Public Health HSE South East.

A public health risk assessment has been undertaken and your child has been identified as a close contact.

Your child should restrict their movements for 14 days, since they were last in close contact with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19. This is sometimes called quarantine. Restricted movements means they need to stay at home, avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible. This is to help stop the spread of the virus if they do have COVID-19 too.

During the 14 days restricted movements your child:

- Cannot attend school, childcare or any group activities
- Cannot use public transport
- Cannot visit other people's homes or have visitors to your home

Your child has been referred for testing by the HSE and you will receive a text message with the details.

They can stop restricting their movements earlier than 14 days if all the following apply:

- They have a negative test (COVID-19 not detected) 10 days after they were last in contact with the person who tested positive.
- They do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- They have not had a positive test (COVID-19 detected) in the last 10 days.

NB: Household contacts, such as parents and siblings, of close contacts who have no relevant symptoms are not usually asked to restrict their movements and do not need to be excluded from school/crèche or other activities at present.

If your child develops symptoms (such as a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more, a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse, sore throat, headaches or diarrhoea), they should be **isolated** immediately and you should phone your GP for further advice. If your GP refers your child for a Covid test (because of their symptoms), their siblings and all household contacts should <u>now</u> also be kept at home and restrict their movements while awaiting the results of this test.

Further information on COVID-19 is available at: <a href="www.hse.ie">www.hse.ie</a> and <a href="www.hpsc.ie">www.hpsc.ie</a> or you can phone HSELive at 1850 24 1850.

Yours sincerely, Dr Robert Conway MCRN 411192 Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine HSE, Department of Public Health South East