

Monday 15 March 2021

Re: Confirmed case of COVID-19 at 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.

Your child has <u>not</u> been identified as a close contact at this time, your child does not need a test for Covid-19, they can continue to attend school, and no further actions are required at this time.

A public health risk assessment has been undertaken and the parents of any children deemed to be close contacts of the confirmed case have been contacted and advised accordingly.

If, at any time, your child develops any symptoms suggestive of Covid-19 infection (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), please do not send your child to school, contact your GP and begin restricting your child's movements, as per public health advice.

If your child is being sent for a Covid test by their GP, due to symptoms, you should try to isolate your child from other members of the household and all other members of the household need to restrict their movements while awaiting the results of this test.

Isolating from others means they should stay in a room, on their own, with a window open for ventilation. They should avoid contact with other people. Depending on the age of a child, a parent may need to isolate with them.

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.

While restricting movements a 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

A child can go outside to attend a medical appointment or to exercise as long as they keep 2 metres distance from other people.

Further information on COVID-19 is available at: www.hse.ie and www.hpsc.ie 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