

Plean Freagartha don Fhilleadh Scoile GSCD -English September 2021

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a0bff-reopening-our-primary-and-special-schools/>

Newest Guidance in relation to vaccination and close contacts:

https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/vaccination/Guidance_impact%20of%20vaccination%20on%20contact%20tracing%20guidance.pdf

Information for parents

1. Introduction

This is a live and working plan and will be revised regularly and updated as required and to take new guidance into account.. Here follows the 8th edition. We ask everybody to be patient for the first few weeks back at school. The school welcomes any feedback in relation to our Covid-19 Plan. Parents who identify risks are asked to inform the school by email. These will be discussed at Board of Management level and the school's plan will then be revised if necessary. Parents can contact the Principal by email at oifig @gaelscoilchilldara.com

2. What is a Plean Freagartha Covid-19?

The aim of this plan is to outline the measures that must be put in place in our school to
(a) reduce the risk of COVID-19 entering the school and
(b) in the event of COVID-19 entering the school, prevent it spreading.

A community effort is required so that the school can open safely and remain open. Every effort will be made to protect the health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. The Covid-19 Response Plan details the policies and practices necessary for a school to meet the Government's 'Return to Work Safely Protocol', the Department of Education and Skills plan for school reopening and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the school environment. The plan incorporates current advice about measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in the community issued by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE).

It is important that the resumption of school-based teaching and learning and the reopening of school facilities comply with the protocol to minimise the risk to pupils, staff and others.

It will take collective responsibility for us to reopen our school safely during this pandemic. **There is a lot for teachers, parents and children to take in.** We would like to reassure you that every decision taken by the school will have **the children's wellbeing** to the forefront at all times.

NB Responsibilities and Right to Confidentiality

a) For the protection of privacy and confidentiality of information relating to all individuals in the school community, the school cannot comment on individual cases or outbreaks of Covid-19 within the school.

b) No information which is shared from the school in a confidential and private manner may be shared on social media/ Whatsapp included and it is not permitted to alter the original copy in any manner.

c) It is very important that the school community should not engage in commentary in the event of a case being identified

d) Can the school share a name of the pupil/student or staff member who is a confirmed case of COVID-19

No, the school cannot share the name of the person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (COVID-19 detected). This information is private and confidential. Close contacts will not be told the name of the confirmed case.

e) I have heard that someone from the school has been identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19 —why has Public Health not contacted me

It may have already been determined that there are no close contacts or onward transmission risk within the school setting, for example if the individual was not in the school during the infectious period. When Public Health do need to contact a school, they will usually do so the same day, or following day. This is safe practice, as the case is no longer within the school setting, and therefore the risk of onward transmission from this case is no longer present.

NB Reminder to **anyone attending school who has travelled abroad** (Staff, parents, children). It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland from locations follow the government advice before attending school in relation to testing, quarantine etc. <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/75d92-covid-19-travel-advice/#>

NB Face coverings Please ensure that your children know that staff will be wearing masks/ visors in school. We do not want them frightened of us when they come in. Masks must be worn once inside the school gates (by all adults only)

Bubbles and Pods –Classes and groups/ nests

When all children return to school, the classes will operate within a bubble system, each class being an individual bubble. From Junior Infants to Rang 6 the children will be further split into Pods and will remain with this Pod for approx a month. There will be a minimum of a meter between each Pod in the classroom when possible. Outdoors

children should only play with children in their class although they will be outside with another class at their class level

Outdoors, the Pods may interact with their class .

From R3-6 ,children will be socially distanced to be a meter outdoors.

We ask that the children stand properly in lines, in their pods leaving a space between them . Do not touch others or their belongings in affection or anger.

Illness Children and staff must stay at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Parents must keep a social distance of 2m from everyone. Parents must ensure that the school has been given enough phone numbers to ensure immediate contact can be made if necessary. Please update Aladdin. Please be aware of latest information from hse updated 28.10.2020

Parents

- **Must wear a face covering inside the school gates.**
- **Must social distance within the school gates, 2 m.**
- Parents must ensure that the school has been given enough phone numbers to ensure immediate contact can be made if necessary.
- Must keep a child home if they are unwell.
- Must ensure there is a plan in place for collection if required during the day.
- Must read and agree to the information form through Aladdin.
- Adults must not congregate talking to each other and must leave the school site as quickly as possible. The school campus is a shared site and we request that all adults leave without delay.
- **Dear Parents , we request that you stand apart from each other on the school campus and REMAIN in your car when dropping/collecting children from Rang a 1 upwards in the morning or afternoon.**

3. School Covid Policy – signed and dated

Ráiteas um 'Polasaí Covid'

4. Planning and Preparing for Return to School

School staff

- 4.1. **Induction Training** will be undertaken by staff prior to the return to the workplace. Induction training is being developed by the Department of Education and will be available to all schools.
- 4.2. **Return to Work form** In order to return to school, staff must complete a Return to Work (RTW) form. The RTW form should be completed and returned 3 days prior to returning to school.
- 4.3. **A Lead Worker Representative** will be appointed from amongst the staff to ensure that COVID-19 measures are adhered to in the school. Sibéal Breathnach agus
- 4.4. **Signage**

Posters and signs are visible throughout and outside of the school building, doors, classrooms, staff rooms and bathrooms. Also on instagram @gaelscoilchilldara2021 and Coiste na dTuismitheoirí

4.5. School layout changes

4.5.1 Procedures for dropping and collecting

The BoM and the School Leadership Team have been working to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils and staff when we re-open. We have now finalised our plans for drop-off and collection of the children every day.

We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the following drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year. There are photos and a small video to help provide images for the areas involved. <https://vimeo.com/451904482/3a677f6ae2>

4.5.2 Drop-off Plan Coming in in the morning

There will be specific procedures for coming to school in the morning:

Doras na Naíonán do ranganna na naíonán

Doras ½ do Ranganna ½

Doras ¾ do ranganna ¾ (timpeall agus taobh thiar den halla ar an gcosán nua)

Doras 5/6 do ranganna 5/6

The classes will NOT be assembling in the yard as previously, school doors will be open at 8.50 and children will walk straight to their classroom. The Múinteoirí will be waiting for them in their room. SET and SNAs will greet and welcome the children on their arrival;. Assembly time will finish at 9.05 .Please do not come to the school before 8.50AM

For health and safety purposes we recommend that children walk or cycle to school. Bikes may be left at the bike rack at the from door, please lock.

We ask the parents of classes 1-6 not to walk up with the children but to leave them at the school car park. Due to covid 19 restrictions we ask that parents do not walk past the corner of Naíonáin classrooms. There are members of staff on duty to greet and look after the children from here.

We ask parents of children Naíonáin to walk socially distanced from other families up to the school along the path and to walk back down on the road – a one way system. Please follow social distancing protocols at all times.

We request that all parents leave the school grounds and car parks without delay. This is extremely important as we share the site with another school.

4.5.3 Collection time

The school staff will be available to help put new procedures in place.

The Naíonáin Mhóra and Naíonáin Bheaga from 10.09.2020 will be brought to Clós 5/6 for collection at 1.40. Please socially distance at all times and leave without delay.

First and Second class will be brought to the bottom of the hill on the road for 2.40. WE ask their parents to stand on the path at NETS, social distance please.

Ranganna 3/4/5/6 will be brought to the bottom of the hill. We ask parents to stand at their cars and wave for their children.

Parents must wear a face covering on school grounds.

Children who travel home by bus will wait in the scioból in lines for their individual buses and maintain a distance of 1m between each other, except where they stand with siblings in the line.

4.5.3 Collecting children during the school day

If you must collect your child during the school day please do the following:

- Ensure you have sent a message to the office and class Teacher before the start of school. Contact office on 045 442300 or oifig@gaelscoilchilldara.com
- Upon arrival at the school an adult must come to the front door and then to the office to let the school know you have arrived- call 045 442300
- A member of staff will bring the child to the door, and sign the child out on behalf of the parent.
- A visitor book must be signed by the staff member.
- No adult must enter the school building without an invitation.

4.6. Update safety and risk assessment

4.6.1 Risk Assessment

4.6.2 Visitors

- The Board asks that no-one apart from pupils and staff enter the school.
- All visitors to the school (Parents included) must make an pre-arranged appointment with the school before coming in. (This will only be in exceptional circumstances.)
- It is imperative that Parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff in the playground, at drop-off/collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. We recommend a pre-arranged phone call/webex.
- The teachers will prepare a presentation for parents in September rather than the usual meeting. - This was presented online in September.

- Every visitor must wear a mask inside school gates.
- The visitor will be met at the door by the secretary or principal.
- The visitor must sign in and sign out.
- A contact log will be kept in a secure place in the office.
- Staff and visitors should maintain a 2m distance from each other.
- No hand shaking policy.
- A box will be at the school main door for lunch or coats that are dropped off late by parents. Be sure that everything is labeled and ring the office to let the school know they are there.

5. Control measures - to prevent introduction and spread of Covid-19 in Schools.

5.1. Know the symptoms of Covid-19

Be aware of the symptoms of Covid-19 - high temperature- cough - shortness of breath - loss of smell & taste.

- Posters around the school
- Staff and pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19 or other acute infectious diseases must not attend school. They should phone their GP and follow the HSE guidance on self isolation.
- Staff and parents of pupils who have been identified by the HSE as contact of a person with COVID19 must not attend school and should follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement.
- Advise all staff members and children who develop symptoms in school to tell the Principal at once
- Ensure that the staff and pupils know the protocols to follow to manage a case of suspected COVID-19 in the school
- Everyone entering the school building should perform hand hygiene with hand sanitiser.
- Visits to school during the day should be by prior arrangement and visitors will be received at the office.
- Pupils should change out of their school uniforms as soon as they arrive home.
- Sports Uniform to be worn Monday - Friday infants.
- Sports uniform for every other class, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- HSE information number: HSELive 1850 241850

Children who should not attend school

HSE UPDATE 28.10.2020

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/school-and-covid-19/when-you-should-keep-your-child-home.html>

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid19.

- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Children who are generally unwell, or have uncommon covid symptoms such as diarrhea , sore throat or headaches.

5.2. Respiratory Hygiene

Please remind your children to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their bent elbow when they cough or sneeze. Please give tissues in the children's bags.

5.3. Hand Hygiene

- Warm water available in each classroom.
- Liquid soap and sanitiser available in every room.
- Hand sanitiser available at the school door entrances.
- Posters illustrating proper hand washing on display in each classroom. Discussions with pupils on proper hand washing.
- Single use paper towels available throughout the school.
- Please remind your children to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Hand washing or the use of sanitiser to be practiced by staff and children at the following times;
 - On arrival at school
 - Before eating or drinking
 - After using the toilet
 - After playing outdoors
 - When hands are physically dirty
 - When a person coughs or sneezes

5.4. Social Distancing

- Policy of no hand shaking
- Staff to keep 2m apart
- Removal of extra furniture from classrooms, 1m distance between each Pod in the class bubble when possible.
- Teacher's table 2m from the children (marked with tape on the floor)
- Children in Learning support rooms to be 1m apart
- Teachers will organise the pods
- only two classes from the same pobal in the clós at yard time.
- Two staffrooms arranged, all staff have a specific place.

- Staggered breaks for all classes.
- Only 'Communities/pobal' come into contact with each other in assigned staff room.
- Specific designated bathroom facilities for each 'pobal'.
- Meetings online or socially distanced in Halla.
- Parents information evening online.

5.5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Masks will be worn by every visitor/parent who comes to the school.
- A box of PPE will be provided for every member of staff.
- Parents will be asked to wear masks on School property
- Teachers and SNA's must wear masks if they are closer than 2m to a child.
- In line with department guidance on return to school cpsma 25th February 2021, and Department Covid response plan Feb 2021- A minimum medical grade mask is required to be worn by teachers (EN14683)- Any other face coverings or visors are no longer deemed sufficient.
- These masks have been made available to **all** Gaelscoil Chill Dara staff.
- It is the responsibility of staff to dispose of any worn ppe in an appropriate and safe manner
- Visors provided for every staff member.
- Every adult must wear a mask once inside the school gates at all times , except when they are in their own classroom with a 2m distance from anybody else or eating their lunch . Visors are not sufficient face coverings..
- PPE (gloves, mask, apron) will be worn when:
 - Assisting with intimate care needs
 - Where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation
 - Giving care to a child that has medical needs
 - Providing first aid

6. Impact of Covid-19 on certain activities in GSCD

- There will be no homework given until 28.09.2020 . Survey to be shared with parents- COMPLETED- Homework from October 2020
- After school activities cannot take place under current circumstances.
- School assemblies will not take place in the halla, but have moved online.
- PE will be done outdoors at the beginning of the year as often as possible.
- All items of uniform must be taken home each day as it will not be possible to operate a lost property area safely
- There will be an emphasis on languages, maths, PE, SPHE, wellbeing and art.
- Library books will be quarantined for at least 72hours.

7. Hygiene and cleaning

- School was deep cleaned during the summer.
- Classrooms, staff room, offices, toilets will be thoroughly cleaned after school each day by a Cleaner from 2.30 onwards
- We have cleaners during the school day to clean the public areas and frequently touch points. To clean the classroom while children are in the yard, tables, chairs, door handles, taps etc.
- Cleaning materials available and safely stored in each classroom so teachers can keep their own work areas clean.
- All ICT, photocopying machine must be cleaned after each use.
- Only one person allowed in photocopying room at any time

7.1 Cleaning/Disinfecting rooms where a pupil/staff member with suspected COVID19 was present

- The person suspected of having Covid-19 is given a mask and brought to the isolation space. "Seomra Speisialta"
- The isolation space is in the room beside the Rang 3 toilets.
- The room should be cleaned as soon as practically possible.
- Once the room is vacated the room should not be reused until the room has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry.
- Disinfection only works on things that are clean. When disinfection is required it is always as well as cleaning.
- Person assigned to cleaning should avoid touching their face while they are cleaning and should wear household gloves and a plastic apron.
- Clean the environment and furniture using disposable cleaning cloths and a household detergent followed by disinfection with a chlorine based product (household bleach).
- Pay special attention to frequently touched surfaces, tables, the back of chairs, door handles and any surfaces that are visibly soiled with body fluids.
- Once the room has been cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry, the room can be reused.
- If a pupil or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 spent time in a communal area or if they used the toilet facilities, then the areas should be cleaned with household detergent followed by a disinfectant (as outlined in the HPSC interim health advice) as soon as is practically possible.

8. Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- Contact a SET who will then contact 1. Niamh 2. Caitriona, 3. The office) immediately. If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately.
- Isolate the person.
- Accompany the individual to the designated isolation area Seomra Speisialta keeping at least 2m away from the symptomatic person and

also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2m from the symptomatic person at all times.

- If it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2m a staff member caring for a pupil should wear PPE
- The person presenting with symptoms must wear a mask.
- The secretary will call the parent/guardian (it is essential that parents provide a phone number at which they can be immediately contacted).
- The parent/guardian should call their doctor and the pupil should continue self isolation at home.
- The pupil should remain in isolation if they cannot immediately go home and their doctor should be called.
- The individual should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects. Advice should be given to the person presenting with symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided.
- If the person can be collected, ensure that a designated person brings them home as soon as possible and advise them to inform their doctor of their symptoms on the phone
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
- An incident report will be filled in after every isolation incident
- Arrange for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

8.1

Dealing with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in Gaelscoil Chill Dara- Privacy and confidentiality : Government guidelines

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/33180-covid-19-school-community-testing-pathway/>

What should the school do if a pupil/student is displaying symptoms while at school

The pupil/student should be immediately brought to the designated isolation area in the school, which should have good ventilation and preferably a window to the outside that opens.

The school should contact the parents/ guardians and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible. The pupil/student should be cared for appropriately by a designated staff member until they are collected. The staff member who is caring for the child should take all necessary precautions as outlined in the public health guidance document. The staff member assisting with the pupil/student does not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves, or are later advised to by public health.

After the symptomatic pupil/student has left the isolation space, it should be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected.

What should the school do if a staff member is displaying symptoms while at school

The onus is on the staff member to immediately inform the principal that s/he is displaying symptoms. The staff member should immediately go home, self-isolate and seek medical

review by their GP (phone the GP if you have symptoms of COVID-19, do not attend in person. GP assessment for COVID-19, and COVID testing if required, are free of cost.)

What should the school do if they are informed over the phone that a pupil/student is symptomatic

The Principal is asked only to make a note of the pupil/student's absence. The principal may note a brief description of the pupil/student's symptoms, if they are disclosed by the parent. However, the principal is not required or entitled to ask about clinical symptoms. Schools can remind parents that if they are concerned a child may have symptoms of COVID-19, the child should not attend school and they should contact their GP without delay. No further actions are required of the school at this stage.

Should a school advise the school community that a staff or pupil/student is symptomatic

No. Schools are asked to note that they should not inform other parents or staff members that a pupil/student or staff member has gone home due to their symptoms. Other pupils/students or staff do not need to be removed from class. This includes siblings or other household members of staff or pupils/students.

Should siblings/household members of someone with symptoms be removed from the school setting

Only under certain circumstances: if the GP of the pupil/student/ staff member decides that their symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, (for example, fever OR a new cough, shortness of breath, deterioration of existing respiratory condition any loss of or changes to the sense of smell or taste), that person becomes a suspected case of COVID-19 and will be referred for a test. It is at this point that members of the symptomatic person's household, including siblings or children of staff members, should be withdrawn from school by their parents or guardians.

If the school is informed of a positive case, what should the school do

If the case of COVID-19 was in the school during the infectious period the school should await a call from the Department of Public Health. This will usually be on the same day but may be the next day. The 'infectious period' is the timeframe during which someone with an infectious disease can spread it to other people — the 'infectious period' for COVID-19 includes the 24 hours before testing for asymptomatic cases, or the 48 hours before symptom onset for symptomatic cases.

It is important to remember that the confirmed case is no longer within the school and therefore the risk of onward transmission from that person has been removed from the school setting. If the case was not in the school setting whilst infectious, then public health will not routinely call the school because there is no significant risk that the case has spread the infection in the school setting.

When public health doctors make contact with the school they will proceed to ask several questions and undertake a Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) with the school.

Advance preparation of the required information (as per the excel sheet format provided on 24th September 2020) will assist the school, and the Department of Public Health, in the event of a Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) being carried out.

What should I expect when Public Health call me

The regional Department of Public Health will ask several questions and carry out a risk assessment. Public Health will identify any close contacts from the school setting with you, through the process of the Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA).

You will be asked by the Department of Public Health to provide information on the close contacts identified. This information will be required in a specific excel format.

The legal basis for sharing requested data with Public Health (Medical Officers of Health and staff in Departments of Public Health) is the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 as amended which provides the legal responsibility for Public Health in Article 11 and the authority in Article 19 which states that 'Any person who refuses to comply with a requirement or direction given or a request for information made in pursuance of any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of a contravention of these Regulations' This legislation fulfils GDPR Article 6 conditions c, d, and e regarding lawfulness of processing, and processing of special categories of personal data is allowed under Article 9 2 (i).

What happens if teachers or students receive notifications of the HSE COVID Tracker app
Close contacts within the school setting are identified by Departments of Public Health following a Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA). If there is any information from the HSE COVID Tracker app, this information will be considered in the risk assessment. However, it may be that not all people who are alerted through the APP are actually deemed close contacts, or vice versa — Public Health might determine that some people who have not been notified by the App are close contacts. While the COVID Tracker app is a very useful tool for collecting information on potential close contacts, Public Health risk assessment and advice overrides the app. This is because the Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) collects more nuanced, composite information to better appraise infection transmission risk in defined circumstances.

Will the Department of Public Health provide instructions to the school as to how to proceed
Once the Public Health Risk Assessment is complete, the Department of Public Health will then advise you of the public health instructions.

These instructions are delivered by the Medical Officer of Health/ Health officer on the advice of the MOH, under Infectious Diseases legislation.

The advice will typically include asking the school principal to:

- contact the parents/guardians of the pupils/students, who are determined by Public Health to be 'close contacts'. Parents of these pupils/students will be asked by the school principal to collect them from school as soon as is safely and practically possible, so they can start restricting their movements. This may still be at the end of the school day. Public Health may also ask the school to issue a letter / text

message or written guidance to these parents/guardians, prepared and provided by Public Health

- contact any staff member who may be determined by Public Health to be a "close contact" and ask him/her to go home to start restricting their movements

What is the period of restricted movements required of a pupil/student or staff member deemed to be a "close contact"

Pupils/students will be asked to restrict their movements and not attend school for a full 14 days.

This is because it can take up to 14 days for the virus to show up in your system after you have been exposed to it. As per data protection regulations, a school cannot confirm the name of the pupil/student and/or staff member who tested positive ('detected') for COVID-19.

If there is a case identified - how far back do Public Health go to consider close contacts
For a confirmed case of COVID-19 who was symptomatic, Public Health will identify close contacts in the 48-hour period before the person became symptomatic. If the confirmed case was asymptomatic, then public health will identify close contacts for the 24-hour period before the test was taken.

Is contact tracing within the school community always required

No. It may well be that for someone who is identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19 there is no need to do any contact tracing within the school setting. This would likely be because the person was not in school while infectious and therefore no contact tracing of other persons within the school will be required. In this instance Public Health would not contact the school.

I have heard that someone from the school has been identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19 —why has Public Health not contacted me

It may have already been determined that there are no close contacts or onward transmission risk within the school setting, for example if the individual was not in the school during the infectious period. When Public Health do need to contact a school, they will usually do so the same day, or following day. This is safe practice, as the case is no longer within the school setting, and therefore the risk of onward transmission from this case is no longer present.

Can the school share a name of the pupil/student or staff member who is a confirmed case of COVID-19

No, the school cannot share the name of the person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (COVID-19 detected). This information is private and confidential. Close contacts will not be told the name of the confirmed case.

Is the school complying with GDPR requirements when collecting and sharing information on complex/close contacts with the HSE

Yes, under the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981, as amended, Medical Officers of Health ask that you collect the data, keep it secure and release it only to Public Health when requested to do so as part of the investigations into a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Processing of these data by the MOH is provided for under GDPR, special category data 9 2(i).

What if the press media or wider school community contact the school

The following is a generic statement that schools may wish to consider using in full or part in response to press/media queries.

“The school cannot comment on individual cases or outbreaks of COVID-19 to protect the privacy and confidentiality of those involved.

The school can confirm that we have engaged with the HSE. The HSE's role includes carrying out a Public Health Risk Assessment. As part of this risk assessment, all close contacts will be identified, contacted and advised of the next steps. Close contacts are requested not to come to school, in line with HSE Public Health advice. If Public Health does not make contact with you, you are not impacted and can continue to attend school.

The school will continue to work with the HSE in ensuring all necessary hygiene, health and safety protocols are in place at the school for the prevention and containment of COVID-19.”

If a pupil/student and/or staff member develops symptoms

How will a test be set up for these pupils/student and/or /staff members

The pupil/student or staff member will be advised to contact their GP. Their GP will assess them and determine whether they should be referred for a COVID-19 test. If an individual is referred for a COVID-19 test, s/he will receive a text message with information of the appointment (time and place).

If a pupil/student has symptoms which may be consistent with COVID-10 what does the parents/guardian need to do

If a child has symptoms which could be consistent with COVID-19, the parents/guardians should call their GP. Their GP will decide whether they should be tested for COVID-19. If the GP determines that the child does need a COVID-19 test, it is at this point that all of their household contacts are asked to restrict their movements. This means that siblings or staff members in the same household as the person who has symptoms should be removed from the school setting. Only the symptomatic case is asked to self-isolate.

Note: there will be many cases where testing is determined not to be required, for example, because the GP thinks that the child's symptoms are not due to COVID-19 and might be due to another cause, for example: the common cold. If the GP does not recommend COVID testing, and it is early in the child's illness, the recommendation is to observe the child for 48 hours and if no further symptoms develop, then they can return to school. If the GP has made a different diagnosis, parents/guardians should follow advice and recommendations on exclusion depending on this diagnosis.

How soon will the pupil/student or staff member receive a test

The person will receive an automated notification of a scheduled appointment at a testing centre at the next possible free slot for testing.

Will the pupil/student or staff member receive one test or more than one test on the basis of being symptomatic. If the latter, why

If the pupil/student or staff member is experiencing symptoms and has been referred for testing by their GP, they will receive one test.

If a pupil/student/ staff member is identified as a close contact

How will a test be set up for persons identified as a close contact

The HSE will send an SMS with the appointment date, time and location of the free COVID-19 test(s).

How soon will the pupil/student/staff member receive a test after being identified as a close contact

Public Health will advise on the timing of a test for close contacts. This will depend on when the pupil/student/staff member was last in contact with the positive case. Testing will be arranged within 1-2 days.

Will the pupil/student/staff member receive one test or more than one test. If the latter, why
Public Health will advise whether a pupil/student/staff member needs one or more tests for COVID-19. They will usually require testing on Day 0 and Day 7 since their last exposure to the confirmed case, but there may be circumstances whereby Public Health require only one test to be undertaken, for example. if sufficient time has elapsed such that the first test for close contacts will be 7 days since they were last exposed to the individual they will only require one test. Public Health doctors will make this judgement following the risk assessment.

Restricting your movements

What does restricting your movements mean

Restricting your movements means avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

Therefore pupil/students/staff members:

- will have to stay home from school
- cannot use public transport
- cannot have visitors in their home
- cannot go shopping — instead where possible, order groceries online or have family or friends drop them off
- should keep away from older people and/or anyone with a long-term medical condition
- cannot travel outside or within Ireland

If a test comes back as "not detected" for a symptomatic pupil/student/staff member, will the person still be required to restrict their movements and why

Yes. If the person receives a negative / 'not detected' test result, the person should remain at home until they are well enough to return to school, unless parents/guardians of (pupil/students) or staff members are specifically asked by HSE public health to remain excluded because of further investigation.

A pupil/student /staff member can return to their normal activities, once they have been given either:

- a negative ('not-detected') test result and are 48 hours without symptoms
- another diagnosis, which is not COVID-19

Those who live with the person will then no longer need to restrict their movements.

If a test comes back 'SARS-CoV-2 detected' (confirmed case of COVID-19) will the pupil /student/staff member still be required to self-isolate

If a person was symptomatic for COVID-19 they should already be self-isolating. If a close contact who was restricting their movements receives a positive COVID-19 test result (SARS-CoV-2 detected), they are now a confirmed case of COVID-19 and must self-isolate; additionally, their close contacts including household contacts must now also start restricting their movements. They may already have been restricting their movements, however if only one person in the house was deemed a close contact from an exposure outside the house, for example, in the school, then the other family members would not have been restricting their movements until this point.

If a pupil/student/staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 and self-isolated for 10 days thereafter, can they return to school/work

Yes, provided that both of the following apply:

- they have not had a high temperature (38 degrees Celsius or over) for 5 days
- it has been 10 days since they first developed symptoms

Close contact information

What does a parent/guardian of a pupil/student who has received a confirmed COVID-19 result need to do

Parents/guardians will automatically be considered to be close contacts if their child tests positive for COVID-19. They will be contacted by the contact tracing centre, a test will be organised for them as they are close contacts and they will be required to restrict their movements for the full 14 days.

What is the definition of a close contact

A person is deemed to be a close contact if s/he:

- has spent more than 15 minutes face-to-face contact within 2 metres or 6 feet of a confirmed case
- lives in the same house or shared accommodation as a confirmed case
- shares a closed space with a confirmed case for more than 2 hours

NB: The Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) is used in the school setting to determine the close contacts

How will pupil/student/staff members find out that they are a close contact

The pupil/student or staff member may need to be informally advised by the school, for example, when asking parents/guardians to collect their child or when a staff member is being asked to go home.

Public Health may provide a letter, suggested wording for a text message or email, which the school can issue to the families or staff members identified as close contacts.

The HSE contact tracing team will phone the parents/guardians of pupils/students and/or staff members who are identified as close contacts. The HSE will arrange for the child/staff member to have an appointment for a free COVID-19 test. As a close contact of a confirmed case, they will be asked to restrict their movements for the full 14 days, even if their COVID-19 test or tests are negative ('not detected').

If a child does develop any symptoms of COVID-19, their parents/guardian should call their GP without delay.

What should the principal do if parents of pupils/students or staff members, that have not been identified as close contact, ring the school for information on the confirmed (positive) case and other close contacts

The school cannot comment on individual cases or outbreaks as to do so would compromise the privacy and confidentiality of those involved. When a case of COVID-19 is identified which is linked to a school, Public Health professionals discuss the matter directly with the person, or family as appropriate, and ask them about their contacts. Public Health professionals will also discuss the matter directly with the school, undertaking a public health risk assessment. Recommended measures, including any exclusions of other pupils or staff members, are made at this point. Responses and recommendations for each facility may well differ, depending on the circumstances identified by Public Health.

Can the class of a confirmed Covid-19 case attend school

The HSE will have carried out a Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA). The only individuals who cannot attend school are those who have been identified as close contacts by Public Health. This may be a small number, for example a 'pod', or it could be a full class. However, if a pupil/student /staff member develops symptoms which could be consistent with COVID-19, they should self-isolate immediately and discuss the matter with their GP.

What message can be communicated to the wider school (if required)

A suggested communication would include

"The HSE is guiding our school through the actions we need to take to protect staff, students and our school community. A Public Health Risk Assessment has been carried out. All close contacts have been identified and sent home from school to restrict their movements for 14 days. The school community will continue to engage with and implement Public Health advice to protect ourselves and the school community from COVID-19".

What is the status of a family member of the pupil/student or staff member who has been identified as a close contact

The person (pupil/student or staff member) who is a close contact needs to restrict their movements for the full 14 days, but no other family member is required to do so — unless they themselves are also identified as a close contact.

Can siblings or children of a staff member who is a close contact attend school

Yes. Only the /staff member who is a close contact needs to restrict their movements, even though they have no symptoms. However, no other family member is required to do so — unless also identified as a close contact.

If however the staff member who is a close contact develops symptoms, of COVID-19 then they are a suspected case of COVID-19 and should now self-isolate and contact their GP, explaining that they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 and they now have symptoms too.

If the GP determines they are now a suspected case of COVID-19, they will arrange testing and the close contact should:

- continue to self-isolate; and
- household members should restrict their movements, as per guidance for household contacts of a suspected case of COVID-19

What should family members do if the pupil/student /staff member receives a confirmed COVID-19 result

The family members are now considered to be close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are therefore required to restrict their movements for the full 14 days.

What should the family members do if the pupil/student /staff member receives a "not detected" result after the required number of tests

The family members are not required to restrict their movements.

Testing

Is there any occasion whereby someone who has been tested for COVID-19 should be attending a school

Some children living in Direct Provision Centres may well be tested for COVID-19 as part of the routine national testing for vulnerable settings. These children should attend school whilst they are awaiting these test results.

Any child who is symptomatic or being tested because they are a close contact of a confirmed case should not be within the school setting.

Certificates

If a child returns to school but hadn't been tested for COVID-19 should I ask for a GP certificate for this

No. There is a self-certification form on the HPSC website 'Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form' which parents can complete.

What if a child has a chronic symptom, for example cough, that the parents say is not related to COVID-19

If a child has long-term symptoms related to a chronic condition, for example a chronic cough, related to asthma, then they/their parents/guardians can complete a self-declaration form on the HPSC website (www.hpsc.ie) for this. They do not require a letter from their GP.

Communication of a result

How long will it take to get a test result

If the result is negative / not detected — an SMS will be sent within 48 hours.

If SARS-CoV-2 is detected (positive COVID-19 result) then the HSE will phone the individual or parents/guardians as soon as possible.

If a pupil/student/staff member's test has resulted as 'not detected', how will they be informed

You will receive a text message if the test is negative for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 is not detected). You could still get COVID-19 in the future. You should continue to follow the guidelines to protect yourself and others.

If a pupil/student/staff member's test has resulted as detected (positive), how will they be informed

If there is a positive test result for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 is detected), the processes of gathering case information and contact tracing will begin. HSE contact tracers will phone the individual or parents/guardians (of the child). The case will be referred to the MOH within the Department of Public Health for public health risk assessment and management. The MOH will liaise with the school and inform them of further action as necessary.

Will a pupil/student's / staff members result be shared with the educational facility
COVID-19 tests remain confidential as per patient — doctor confidentiality. No other pupil/student, parent, family or teacher will be informed of the results.

However, parents should be advised at the point of testing, that if their child's result is positive for COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2-19 detected) then it will likely need to be shared with an appropriate named individual within the school/educational facility, if this is deemed necessary by the Medical Officer of Health for onward safe management of the situation.

If the close contacts identified within the school test positive, will public health perform another risk assessment and is there any action required from the school
Public health will review the situation and continue their engagement. Public Health risk assessment is dynamic, changing as information is accumulated.

What if a pupil/student / staff member is waiting more than three days for a test result
Anyone waiting longer than 3 days for a COVID-19 test result should get in touch with the 'HSE delayed COVID-19 test search service' by choosing one of the options below:

- fill out the online form www.hse.ie/CovidResults
- freephone HSELive on 1850 24 1850 who will take your details. This service is open Monday to Friday: 8am -8pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm
- call your GP who can submit a query on your behalf using a protected form

Use of online platforms

If the school has on-line media facilities should this be used as a forum for parents to share COVID-19 information

No, we do not recommend that use of on-line forums is encouraged around cases or incidents relating to COVID-19 within the school. This is because it can result in individuals accidentally being identified who might be confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in a breach of confidentiality, or stigmatising children and families with confirmed cases of

COVID-19. This in turn can make it challenging for people to reveal any symptoms/concerns in a timely manner, making it more difficult for schools and Public Health staff to protect everyone.

If the school has online media facilities should this be used as a forum for parents to share COVID-19 information

No, we do not recommend that use of on-line forums is encouraged around cases or incidents relating to COVID-19 within the school. This is because it can result in individuals accidentally being identified who might be confirmed.

Travel

What's the advice for people travelling into Ireland from a country not on the green list
A pupil /student / staff member travelling to Ireland from a loc

ation that is not on the COVID-19 Green List is required to restrict their movements for the full 14 days. This includes citizens and residents returning to Ireland.

If you're child is confirmed as a close contact of a confirmed case.:

[https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/child-close-contact-covid-19-school.h](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/child-close-contact-covid-19-school.htm)

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9. Learning Support

Learning support will be provided. The support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work with the same groups. As always the SET will contact the parents.

- It has been decided that at this time in class support is not advisable , Where necessary students should be withdrawn from class
- Where children from 3rd to 6th Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending

10. Staff Duties

Organising school equipment

- Staff will have their own cupan, plate, utensils etc.
- Equipment such as learning support, musical instruments, math equipment will not be shared between pods.
- Within the pod, children will not share books, water bottles, playdough, food etc.
- Any toys that can not be cleaned will be put away in the store room.

- Toys will be cleaned regularly
- Each child's belongings must be clearly labelled, eg bag, lunchbox, folder, all items of clothing
- Children keep their books, pencils etc. in a mesh bag which they do not take home.
- Staff are responsible for the safe disposal of all used PPE

11. **Teacher Absence and Substitution**

- In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, temporary cover will be provided by the SEN teacher until a substitute teacher is available. If no teacher is available to teach the class, parents will be informed through Aladdin not to send in their child/to collect their child from school.
- As of the return to school in March 2021, significant adjustments have been made in terms of any additional teachers accessing more than one classroom.
- To this end support teachers cannot provide in class support .
- In a situation where class pods/ classes are deemed close contacts or there has been a confirmed case, or where a substitute teacher cannot be provided or an insufficient number of GSCD staff are available to safely supervise children, it may be necessary for that class group to remain at home for days as necessary, and resume remote learning. Every effort will be made to inform parents as promptly as possible.

12. **Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme**

<https://www.education.ie/en/Education-Staff/Services/Employee-Assistance-Service/employee-assistance-service.html>

- **Any staff considered 'high risk' should inform management. There are a number of new illness schemes available to those who may choose not to return .**

NB

- The least number of people on school grounds the better
- You can contact the school through email or by phone , 9-2.40, Monday to Friday: oifig@gaelscoilchilldara.com call 045442300
- Mask to be worn by all adults when coming inside the school gates.

- Masks are not recommended for children under 13 years of age. If a parent /child wishes the child to wear a mask, the parent is responsible for providing the masks and teaching the child how to wear and handle the mask correctly.
 - Children are not required to bring hand sanitiser to school. parental choice. It is provided in every room in the school.
 - Appointments must be made before parents come to the school
 - Children should stay at home if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Rang 1-6 Sports uniform every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 - Children should change out of their uniform as soon as they arrive home.
 - All of the children's possessions should be clearly labelled.
 - A phone number at which a parent/guardian can be immediately contacted must be provided.
 - Ensure that your child has all the belongings that he/she needs for the day before they come to school. If something important is forgotten, please ring the office before coming to the school.
 - Ensure that every child goes to the toilet and washes his/her hands before they come to school.
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- It is important that children are dropped and collected on time and leave the school property as soon as possible
 - We ask that all parents /guardians discuss social distancing with their children
 - Children will remain in their pods/lead in class , in line and in outdoor classes also.
 - Teachers will leave windows and doors open as much as possible , as such it is important that any necessary movement around the school is done quickly and in a quiet and considerate manner.
 - Walk on the left side through GSCD
 - Every class in GSCD has staggered break times.
 - Children remain with their own class on the yard..
 - Children use resources that belong solely to their class. The teacher is responsible for these materials/resources.
 - There is always PPE available to all staff members . We continuously have extra ppe available.
 - An audit of PPE supplies was completed on 30.10.20 One cleaning product was required to be changed. This has been replaced on 31.10.20

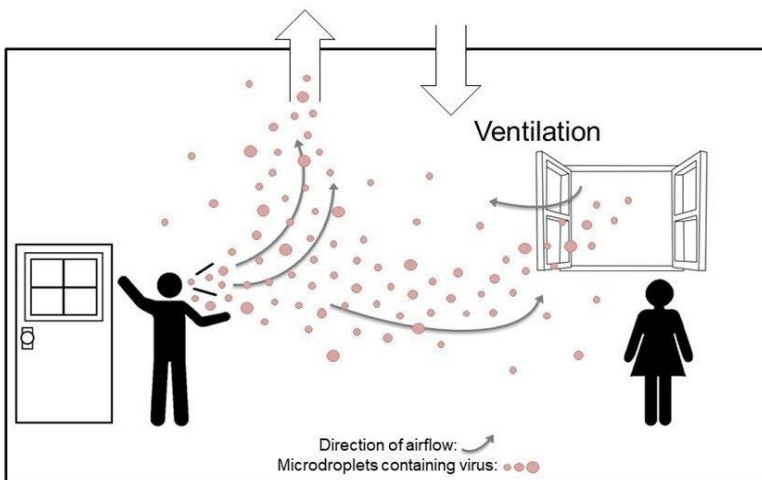
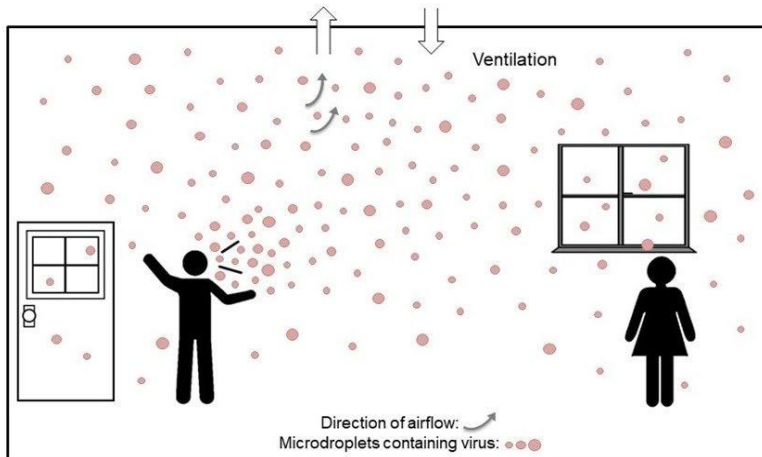
13. Fresh air and ventilation : Guidance on building ventilation during Covid 22.09.2020 here:[anseo!](#)

UPDATE DES:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/>

- Good ventilation in rooms is a priority at this time.
- The WHO recommends consistent good ventilation alongside disinfection of surfaces, handwashing and social distancing.

- While windows do not have to be open on the pupils arrival in class they must be opened within the first half hour in class. The windows should remain opened throughout the day and after the classes have left their classroom.
- Air becomes 'saturated' by groups of people breathing indoors. The clean air must be replenished by creating a draft. In school we advise keeping **at least one window and door open** to ensure there is fresh air in circulation in the classroom.
- Everyone must leave the classroom at breaktime and lunch time at least . More often if possible. Leave the windows and door open when leaving the classroom. NBNBNNBNB
- Even on **wet days** we will all be going outside for 5-10 minutes at both break times, to ensure we all get fresh air, and to refresh the air in the classroom. Teachers will arrange with their colleagues to ensure there are activities organised for students when they return to class.
- On wet days the group intended to be on clós % may use the scioból **scioból** keeping the doors open.



Handwashing

- **We will ensure that children are regularly washing their hands throughout the day. Sanitising alone will not suffice if hands are dirty. Soap is available from the store room .**
- Select times that are convenient for groups to wash their hands. Maybe before and after lunch breaks. It is advisable to have a hand wash bottle with extra water so it can be applied to students' hands while they are still seated and waiting to access the sink.
- Every child should have a very small hand towel/ face cloth to use to dry their own hands. This is more hygienic and while paper towels are available it will help to reduce waste and our environmental impact at this time.