

Advice during COVID-19:

Safe schools Advice for parents



School communities are working hard to ensure the safe operation of our schools for students, staff and families.

All schools have put in place rules and routines which must be followed to keep everyone safe.

The latest public health advice on returning to school is available on [gov.ie/schools](https://www.gov.ie/schools).



If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- Any other common symptoms of Covid-19 – a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- Been living with someone who is unwell and may have Covid-19
- Other uncommon symptoms of Covid-19, such as sore throat, headaches or diarrhoea
- Returned from another country in the last 14 days.



See [here](#) for more.

Close Contacts: if a student or staff member in a school tests positive for Covid-19, they are required to self-isolate and a public health risk assessment will take place. Any student or staff member who is deemed a close contact is required to restrict their movements and not attend school.

Example: Close contact must restrict movements

- Conor O’Kane of Scoil Mhuire is in 2nd class
- A child in his pod has tested positive for Covid-19
- Following a public health risk assessment, Conor has been identified as a close contact.
- Conor’s parents are informed that he should restrict his movement for 14 days since the day he was last in touch with the child who tested positive.



Example: Contact of a contact is not required to restrict movements

- Tara O’Kane of Scoil Mhuire is in 5th class. She is Conor’s sister
- She has not been identified by Public Health as a close contact of the child who tested positive.
- Tara can continue to attend school
- If Conor or anyone else in the household tests positive then Tara must stay at home.



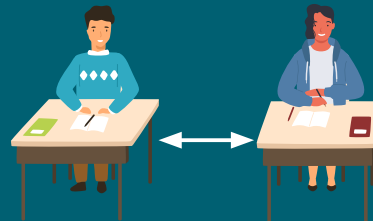
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- **Good handwashing and hygiene practice** – important for all students. Make sure your child knows to use a tissue to cover coughs or sneezes or to cough or sneeze into their elbow.

- **In senior primary classes and at post-primary** – physical distancing procedures should be followed by all.



- **Primary school** – younger children are not required to practice physical distancing, but have been organised into pods within the class.

- It is a requirement for face coverings to be worn by teachers, staff in schools and students attending post-primary school.



- Encourage your child to **walk or cycle to school** if possible and safe to do so.



- **School transport** – students will have an assigned seat that they must sit in and post-primary students will be required to wear a face covering when waiting for and when on-board the bus.

- **Pick up and drop off** can be a busy time.



- Please ensure social distancing by following the school's guidance on when and where to go. Please drop and collect your child quickly without lingering.
- Parents should follow public health advice on socialising outside of the household to keep their children safe outside of school.