



INFORMATION FOR ANYONE EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED TO COVID-19

Dear Parents/Carers

In recent days the Department of Education have provided supplementary guidance which is to be used in conjunction with the New School Day Guidance. The additional guidance is outlined below -

As you are likely aware, the symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature/ fever –of 37.8 degrees Celsius or above. This means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature); **OR**
- a new, continuous cough –this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); **OR**
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If your child is displaying any of these symptoms, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO NURSERY and follow direction from the Public Health Agency (www.publichealth.hscni.net).

If anyone becomes unwell in school with the symptoms detailed above, they must be sent home and advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. We cannot underestimate the impact that a positive COVID 19 case would have on our whole school community .i.e. whole class 'bubbles' would have to self-isolate isolate and stay at home for 14 days or more.

We totally understand that there are reasons a child may be unwell that are not COVID related – nonetheless we are asking parents to err on the side of caution and keep children home if they are unwell. *Further to this, we ask that if you are unsure as to whether your child is well enough for school, that you consult your GP or the Public Health Agency – as we are sure you appreciate, we cannot make medical decisions about a child's condition.*

COVID-19 TESTING

Everyone in Northern Ireland with symptoms of COVID- 19 is eligible for a free test. There are two ways to get a coronavirus test: going to a testing centre or getting a test kit delivered to your home.

We ask that you keep us informed at every stage if your child or family member is being tested, and appreciate you sending your test results to us.

Tests can be booked online at:

www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

NEGATIVE RESULT

Where an individual has had a negative result, it is important to still apply caution. If everyone in the household with symptoms who was tested receives a negative result, the pupil or member of staff can return to school providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

SYMPTOMS/POSITIVE RESULT

The guidance is as follows:

⇒if you have symptoms of coronavirus or a positive test, you will need to stay at home for **at least** 10 days

⇒if you live with someone who has symptoms or a positive test, you will need to stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms

⇒however, if you develop symptoms during this 14-day period, you will need to self-check in accordance with Test and Trace guidance and stay at home for 10 days from the day your symptoms started (regardless of what day you are on in the original 14-day period)

⇒10 days after your symptoms started, if you do not have a high temperature, you do not need to continue to self-isolate. If you still have a high temperature, keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal. You do not need to self-isolate if you just have a cough after 10 days, as a cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone

⇒if you have symptoms and live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else they can stay for the 14-day isolation period

⇒it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall incidence of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Anyone who tests positive will be contacted by the Contact Tracing Service in the Public Health Agency who will collate those whom the person has been in contact with over the previous 48 hours. This could include household members, people with whom you have been in direct contact, or been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes. Passing in corridors and short periods of contact does not therefore present a significant risk to staff or pupils. All

household members should follow PHA isolation guidance which currently requires everyone in the house to stay at home. Isolation guidance will be provided. It may require friendship groups, regular contacts and potentially an entire class or 'bubble' being instructed to self-isolate at home.

RETURN TO NURSERY

Children or members of staff can return to school when they have completed the necessary period of isolation as advised by the Test, Trace and Protect service.

It is extremely important that everyone acts responsibly and takes the necessary action to keep our Nursery and wider community as safe as possible.

Thank you in advance of your support in the coming months

Kind Regards

Ms C McQuillan, Principal