



Holy Family Community School

Pobalscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The school has been informed of two positive cases of Covid-19 within our school community. The HSE has been notified and no close contacts have been identified.

The HSE has asked that we remind parents/guardians of the following:

- Keep an eye on your child's health and check for symptoms of Covid-19. Symptoms can include some or all of the following –
 - Fever (temperature of 38 C or higher)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Any loss or change to the senses of smell or taste
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose

If your child develops these symptoms they must self-isolate and contact their GP for advice regarding a Covid-19 test.

Even with high population uptake of Covid-19 vaccination, it is important that you continue to support the students and staff of the school community during the Covid-19 pandemic in the effective manner you have been. All public health guidelines still need to be followed to protect the health of students and staff, these include –

- Wearing face coverings over the mouth and nose
- Cleaning hands regularly
- Maintaining physical distance from others
- Being mindful of the ventilation of classrooms by opening windows and doors as appropriate

What is the advice for close contacts who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19?

- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 are required to restrict their movements until they receive a call from the HSE Contact Management Programme. During this call a review of each close contact's vaccination (dates and type) and medical history will determine whether the vaccine is likely to provide "significant immunity" for them. **The close contact will then be advised whether they can return to school or whether they need to continue to restrict their movements.**

When is a person considered to be fully vaccinated?

1. 7 days after receipt of the second Pfizer – BioNTech dose (two dose vaccination course)
2. 15 days after receipt of the second AstraZeneca dose (two dose vaccination course)

What is the advice for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19?

- Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will need to go for two PCR tests for Covid-19, one as soon as possible and one on Day 10 after their last exposure to the Covid-19 case.
- They will need to restrict their movements (stay at home) until the Day 10 test has been done. This includes not attending work or school.
- If the Day 10 test result is “not detected” or negative, the pupil or staff member can return to school provided they do not have symptoms of Covid-19.

What about the families of those who are close contacts?

Other people who live at home with the close contact do not need to restrict their movements, provided the close contact has no Covid-19 symptoms. This means they can continue to attend school. If the close contact tests positive for Covid-19, the household will need to restrict their movements.

What if a close contact declines the Covid-19 test?

Testing is not mandatory. But if a close contact does not have a Day 10 test done, this means they need to continue to restrict their movements for 14 days after their last contact with the person with Covid-19.

