



A chairde,

Below please find answers to questions that have been asked and a few further clarifications:

**1) What happens if my child has symptoms or a diagnosed case of COVID-19**

- If your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, he/she must remain at home.
- You must contact your GP and follow all guidance given
- Where a referral for testing is made for your child, your child (and all siblings) must remain at home and cannot attend school.
- If your child has a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must, along with siblings, remain at home for 14 days.
- If your child displays symptoms during school hours, your child will be given a mask to wear and will be brought to the isolation room by a designated member of staff, who will be wearing PPE
- You will be contacted by the school and you must arrange for your child to be collected as soon as possible.
- The door of the isolation room will remain open and a member of staff will be outside. There will be a toilet facility available, which will subsequently be closed for cleaning, if used.
- If you are contacted due to your child displaying symptoms, you must collect your child immediately. It is advised that he/she wears the mask until you reach your home. You are not to go to the GP or pharmacy or use public transport. You must contact your GP and follow all advice. The school will contact you later in the day to follow up.

**2) If there is a suspected or confirmed case in my child's class, will the school inform me?**

- The school will not inform any family of a suspected or confirmed case
- Where there has been a diagnosed case, the HSE will contact the school. The school will facilitate contact tracing by providing all relevant information
- The HSE will contact anyone deemed a close contact and you will be advised of what to do.

**3) My child has a diagnosed underlying condition which places him/her in the high/very high risk category. Will I be informed if there is a suspected case of COVID-19 in my child's class?**

- The guidelines have said that confidentiality is essential to this process
- The DES has confirmed that this information will not be passed in any situation

**4) My child has asthma and has regular flare-ups throughout the year. Does my child need to stay at home and be tested every time?**

- Clarification from the DES has been received re Asthma – see below
- If the child is having an asthma flare-up that doesn't get better with treatment, they should get care as they would have done before the pandemic.
- All pupils with symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their GP for further advice
- However, common sense must prevail and if the cough is the same as always and the parent doesn't believe that the child represents a particular infection risk to other children or to staff then the child should be allowed attend school.
- Please note that this is for only those children who suffer from asthma. It is NOT open for parents of other children to decide whether or not their child represents an infection risk to other children or staff if they present with any COVID-19 symptoms. Contact with GP must be made in such situations.

**5) My child has displayed symptoms and is staying at home, as per guidelines. Will they be marked absent?**

- All absences will be marked as such, however, a note will be made as to the reason. (there has been no change of guidelines from Tusla to date)
- While all absences of more than 20 days are reported to Tusla, it will be noted, if a portion of those days are COVID-19 related, that there is no concern and that they are COVID related

**6) My child is displaying symptoms/has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Will they receive school work?**

- If your child has been advised to isolate for 14 days, a programme of work will be provided. In the case of a few days absence, this may not be feasible.

**7) I am worried about sending my child back to school and would rather keep them at home. Will the school provide a programme of work for them?**

- The only case in which a child will be provided with a programme of work in such circumstances will be if your child, on medical advice, with accompanying documentation, has been advised to cocoon – this would apply only to “very high risk” children.
- The Department of Education has clarified that it intends for all children to return to school.
- If you wish to home-school your child, you must contact Tusla and follow the guidelines to apply to become a home-school tutor

**8) My child travels to school on the bus. Will they have to go with their classes to drop-off point and then return to the bus?**

- No. They will go straight to bus.
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**9) My child cycles to school. Will this still be facilitated?**

- Yes. Your child may cycle to school. We would encourage, where possible, to help reduce cars.
- They may continue to use the bike racks. We would ask parents to remind children, where possible, to refrain from touching the bike rack.

**10) My child may need to leave school to attend an appointment. What are the procedures for collection?**

- Please send in a note to class teacher, as per usual
- When your child is due to be collected, please enter the foyer and sign your child out.
- Aisling will call for your child to come to the reception area at that point.
- If for any reason, there is no one in reception, you must wait until someone arrives. You cannot go further than the reception area.

**11) We have been asked to wash/clean schoolbags weekly. Should I clean my child's coat weekly also?**

- We would advise that coats are cleaned regularly
- Coats will be hung on chairs and thus we would recommend that they are cleaned regularly

**12) Do I, as an adult, need to wear a mask in/around the school?**

- Yes. You must wear a mask when you are inside the school building at all times.
- If you forget your mask, a mask will be made available for you.
- In any circumstance in and around school grounds in which you are unable to socially distance, you must wear a mask, eg waiting for collection.
- If you are wearing a mask, please ensure that you wear it correctly, covering both nose and mouth.

**13) In previous years when my child's teacher was absent, my child's class was often split up between other class groups. Will this happen this year?**

- No. Under no circumstances will your child's class be split up this year.
- The Department of Education has allowed for more "substitutable" absences eg first day of illness (previously, this did not entitle a school to avail of a sub, unless a doctor's cert was provided)
- We have been given access to a local substitute supply panel. This is, however, a very limited service, but we would hope it would provide some level of cover
- If there is no availability on the local supply panel, we may look for a casual sub. As you may be aware however, from previous years, the number of available casual subs is quite low.
- If there is no sub available, we will have to use our learning support teachers/Clodagh
- If it is a case that there is no available sub and all non mainstream class teachers are in use, your child's class will be sent home. This will only occur in very limited circumstances and every effort will be made to avoid this.

**14) Does my child need to remain in their pod while playing outside?**

- More space has been made available in the yards in order to facilitate social-distancing.
- Children will be expected socially distance while in the yard at 1m (we do recognise however, that they are children!). It is however, acknowledged that there is less potential for spreading the virus when outside. Therefore, children may play within their bubble instead of pod. Bubbles will not be able to play with each other.

**15) My child has been assigned to a pod. Will they remain in pod for the entire year? Will they move between pods for different activities? If a pod is to be rearranged, will this happen within the pod or with different pods?**

- Your child will not remain in the pod for the year. They will be changed at intervals throughout the year (at holidays).
- Students will remain in their pods for all activities and assignments. Pods will not mix
- If there a pod is to be rearranged, it will happen within the pod.

**16) My child is in the choir. Choir has been identified as a higher risk activity. Will it continue?**

- We have decided to delay the return to choir for September, at least, in order for us to assess whether or not it would be appropriate and how best to approach it if we deem it safe to resume.

**17) My child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. I am concerned that the students won't socially distance when walking from school to collection points.**

- Teachers will accompany classes to the gates. They will ensure that classes remain the appropriate distance from each other, while socially-distancing.
- Once a class has been sent out from gate, the next class will move up and exit.
- We would ask parents to remain in or stand beside your car, instead of congregating on footpaths. It is of the utmost importance that parents do not congregate near the pedestrian or car gates, as classes will be walked out from there. Please explain to your child what do to eg walk down the path, if not there, return to school.
- We would remind parents/guardians that they must socially distance (2m) while waiting for collection. We are contacting Fingal Co. Co. re markings on ground to help facilitate SD.
- We would remind people that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> will leave the school first, followed by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and so you should plan accordingly. We would ask that, where possible, parents of older children wait in cars/at church carpark, in order to facilitate Rang 3 being collected nearer the gates.
- We would remind parents/guardians to wear masks if they are unable to socially distance while awaiting collections.

- We would ask parents/guardians to ensure that you are on time (if running late, please inform school). Teachers will be unable to wait at the gate after class is gone. They will return to school and your child will have to be collected from the front door. Repeated late collections may result in communication from the Board of Management

**18) My child walks/cycles to/from school on his/her own. Will they be allowed to continue to do so?**

- Yes they will.
- If your child is to go home by themselves, please inform your child's teacher
- Your child will leave with their class and may continue on own then.

**19) Updates on Behavioural Policy**

- Breaches of our Covid Response plan will be dealt with in the context of our Behavioural Policy.
- Everyone in our school community, children, parents and staff have a responsibility to adhere to our Covid Response plan, to ensure the safe and sustained reopening of our school
- We have identified 2 major risks which will be dealt with in accordance with our behavioural plan. Please find below:
- The first risk is where a child mocks, name-calls, stigmatizes etc another child or children in the context of COVID-19 – eg when a child coughs, that they would say COVID/Coronavirus and other such phrases, mentioning absences and insinuating that they were Covid-relate etc. We must all be cognisant of the potential damage such behaviours can have on the mental well being of all our students. Any such incident will be dealt with in accordance with our Code of Behaviour
- The second risk identified is where a child puts another child or member of staff at physical risk through purposeful coughing in another's face, spitting or licking another person or any other act which could be deemed, in the context of COVID, harmful to another person. This can result in the immediate suspension of your child and your child must remain at home until further notice.

**20 ) Has the DES provided an plan in the case of another national lockdown:**

- No it has not. However, the staff have begun planning for any possibility of blended of distant learning eg if there is a localised school/bubble lockdown.

Ag súil le gach duine a fheiceáil ar ais ag scoil. Looking forward to seeing everyone next Monday.

Le meas,  
M. Clodagh

