



What happens when a child becomes ill at school and displays symptoms which may be consistent with Covid-19

- If a child displays symptoms, which **may** be consistent with Covid-19, the school will contact the child's parent or guardian and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible.
- The child will be cared for appropriately by a staff member whilst they are waiting to go home.
- The isolation space (where the child will wait for their parent/guardian) will be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected when vacated.
- The staff member who has cared for the child with symptoms during this time does not need to go home unless subsequently advised to by Public Health HSE.
- At this stage, **no further action** by the school is required.
- Schools have been advised that they should **not** inform other parents or staff members that a pupil or staff member has gone home due to their symptoms.
- Other pupils or staff do not need to be removed from class, including siblings or other household members.
- When the GP of the child has assessed the symptoms to be consistent with Covid-19 infection, e.g. fever OR a new cough, shortness of breath, deterioration of existing respiratory condition OR symptoms of aguesia or dysgeusia (essentially loss of or changes to the sense of taste) and the person is referred for a test, at this point the person becomes a suspected Covid-19 case and household members including siblings should be withdrawn from school by their parent or guardian.
- Where no evidence of Covid-19 is detected by the test, the child should remain at home only until she is clinically well enough to return to school (unless specifically requested by HSE to do otherwise).
- Household members can return to school immediately following the receipt by the parent or guardian or staff member of a "not detected" result.
- Where a test confirms Covid-19, the Medical Officer of Health will liaise directly with the school and will undertake a Public health risk Assessment to inform further actions and recommendations.
- The school will not inform the wider school population where a case of Covid-19 has been confirmed. Contacts of a confirmed case will be contacted by the HSE.