

CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOL – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF

We have been made aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) associated with the school – this may be a pupil, member of staff or a visitor. This letter is to advise you of what happens next.

Contact Tracing

The Public Health Agency Contact Tracing Service will contact the case to identify their close contacts. In turn the close contacts will then be advised by the Contact Tracing Service on the guidance for isolation and testing.

The guidance on close contacts has now changed and your child may not be identified as a close contact simply because they have been in school at the same time as the case. However if you or your child are contacted by the Contact Tracing Service, please follow the guidance that they give you.

If you have not been contacted and have no symptoms there is no requirement for you or your child to isolate and they are able to attend school as normal.

Testing

If you or your child develops any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 please isolate and book a PCR test by visiting [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) or calling 119. The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

You can find information about testing and isolating on NI Direct at the link below:
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts>

Always get a **PCR test** if you or your child have symptoms and please self-isolate until you get the result. Lateral Flow Device tests should not be used in this situation as you may still have COVID-19 even if you have a negative result.

How to stop Covid-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with Covid-19:

- **Please get vaccinated if you or your child are eligible and haven't already done so;**
- Take part in regular lateral flow testing if this is offered to you or your child;
- Keep rooms well ventilated;
- Self-isolate and book a PCR test when you have symptoms or have been advised to by Contact Tracing;
- Follow the current advice on face coverings and physical distancing;
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds – and use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further information

Further information is available on the following websites:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus>

If your child feels unwell and you are worried about their symptoms or about anyone else in the home please contact your GP.