



St. Thomas' Senior National School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The HSE has issued guidance for parents which addresses the following issues:

- Symptoms to look out for and when to contact your GP
- When to keep your child at home and phone your GP
- When it's okay to send your child to school or childcare

That information is available at the following link: [HSE: Covid-19 Advice for Parents](#)

- As a general rule **do not send your child to school** if they have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other [common symptoms of coronavirus](#) - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in [close contact](#) with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- an existing breathing condition that has recently got worse

If your child becomes unwell at school and presents with symptoms associated with Covid-19, we will follow the procedure that is set out in Section 8 of our school's Covid-19 Response Plan. This involves bringing your child to a designated area within the school. This area is called an "isolation area" and every school is required to have such an area identified to deal with a possible case of Covid-19.

We will contact you and ask you to collect your child as soon as possible.

Please note that the school is not required to inform anyone that your child has been removed due to his/her symptoms. This procedure is purely precautionary.

If you have other children in the school, they do not have to be removed from the school at this point.

You are required to contact your GP to discuss concerns and we would ask that you keep the school updated on the advice given by your GP.

The next steps will depend on the advice given to you by your GP.

- If your child is referred for a test, all other members of the household that attend the school should remain at home.
- If your child is confirmed positive for Covid-19, the HSE will begin the process of contact tracing. This will most likely mean that the school will be contacted to assess the Public Health Risk.

From this point onwards, the process will be led by the Public Health HSE.