

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 - Presentation Secondary School, Milltown

Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been identified at Presentation Secondary School, Milltown.

Those who have been identified to be close contacts of the confirmed case have now been contacted and advised accordingly.

If your child has not been identified as a close contact at this time, your child does not need a test for Covid-19, they can continue to attend school, and no further actions are required at this time.

If your child develops any symptoms suggestive of Covid-19 infection (such as a cough, a fever, loss or change in sense of taste or smell):

- Your child should stay at home and
- You should phone your GP for further advice

Further information on COVID-19 is available at: www.hpsc.ie and www.gov.ie

The HSE have asked us to remind parents of the following,

1. All parents and staff are reminded to keep an eye on their health and to check for symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms of Covid-19 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, or a runny nose. If any student or member of staff develops these symptoms they must self-isolate and contact their GP for advice regarding a COVID-19 test.
2. All public health guidelines still need to be followed to protect the health of students and staff, these include:
 - Wearing face coverings
 - Cleaning hands regularly
 - Maintaining physical distance from others
 - Being mindful of the ventilation of classrooms by opening windows and doors as appropriate
3. All those who are eligible for vaccination within school communities are encourage to access appropriate information around this (available at <https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/>) For those wishing to arrange vaccination, they can do so at either:
 - a. Register using the HSE Vaccine portal (<https://vaccine.hse.ie/#register>)
 - b. **OR** phone the HSE at 1800 700 700

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 movements.**

When is a person considered to be fully-vaccinated?

- a. 7 days after receipt of the second Pfizer-BioNTech dose (two dose vaccination course)
- b. 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 symptoms. This means they can continue to attend school. If the close contact tests positive for COVID-19, the household will then 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.

More information

Up to date information and advice on COVID-19 is available on hse.ie. We thank you for your help and support as we continue to live with COVID-19.

*The HSE COVID-19 Health Protection Schools Response
(Part of HSE's National COVID-19 Contact Management Programme)*