



Information for Parents and Pupils Covid-19 Reporting Procedures

09.10.20

Dear Parents

This letter is to update you further on our Covid -19 procedures in school and to present factual information on the school's position. Please read also on the website information dated 02.10.20

Our school community has a broad town and rural mix with a 25mile radius. To date the cases reported independently to the school were as a result of community transmissions such as social gatherings or parents/siblings unfortunately testing positive within a household and other family members becoming infected. ***We wish everyone a speedy and healthy recovery.***

Pupils who travelled on the Tattysallagh bus were asked to quarantine along with pupils from other schools.

PHA advise when the number of incidences of Covid-19 in the school pose a threat which would require action other than that which the school has taken to date.

We ask all parents not to send pupils to school if the pupil is ill in any way or has a temperature.

We thank all parents in acting responsibly to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our school community.

Symptoms of Covid-19

[Please see also Information for Parents & Carers on our website.](#)

The advice from PHA is that a pupil is considered to be symptomatic if she is displaying one of three symptoms:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- Anosmia: a loss or change in normal sense of smell which can also affect sense of taste.

I appreciate the debate that some people in the community have tested positive with symptoms other than those above and that some carriers may be asymptomatic. The school position is always advised by PHA and evolves from a parent carefully describing health indicators leading up to a pupil's Positive test result which is discussed with the relevant bodies before taking action.

What happens when the school is informed by a parent that a pupil has tested Positive for Covid-19?

Monday – Friday The parent rings the school to inform that a pupil has tested Positive. The parent will be asked for the details of the symptoms prior to the test and when the symptoms initially presented. The pupil will be asked to make a list of close contacts in the previous two days depending on when she was last in school. The school will also conduct its own track and trace, according to guidelines.

All close contacts, pupils and staff, named by the person who tests positive are contacted by the school in the first instance as a precaution and if it is a school day pupils are removed from

circulation. Pupils may also come forward and identify themselves as a close contact in the event they are not on the contact list. (PHA advice on the definition of a close contact is outlined at the end of this letter.)

Advice is always sought from PHA and discussions held with EA Covid-19 Team before any further action is taken. The circumstances of each case can be very different and the advice from PHA can also vary. Parents will be informed to collect their daughter and of isolation dates.

An enhanced clean of the school takes place after a pupil has tested Positive. Cleaners are on the premises daily keeping the main circulation areas sanitised and classrooms are cleaned thoroughly at the end of the day.

Weekends: The parent rings the school Emergency number 07803115344 or emails info@loretogs.omagh.ni.sch.uk. PHA operate from 10-2pm on a Saturday and Sunday. After these hours if a parent rings to inform that a pupil has tested Positive the school will discuss the case with the EA Emergency weekend team before taking precautionary action. PHA will then advise further on the Monday. If PHA review a case and consider that the precautionary measure taken by the school on a Sunday to remove close contacts may not be necessary, depending on the circumstances of the case, the school will act on the advice of PHA to recall students.

Please be aware that the notification of a Positive Case takes time to manage and the Senior Management Team and office staff could be making contact with homes after school hours and at weekends.

Keeping Parents and Pupils informed

In an effort to keep information transparent parents have been kept informed by text message to avoid any misrepresentations.

Parents have been overwhelmingly supportive and appreciate the measures the school has taken to ensure the Health and wellbeing of the entire school community. We will continue to keep everyone reassured, updated and fully informed.

Update: General Information about daily Covid-19 precautions.
This information is subject to change depending on information from the Department of Education and the HSC/PHA
Please see all other information on our school website

Parents are asked not to send pupils to school if they feel ill in any way or have a temperature.

Once a pupil arrives on the school premises she is asked not to leave the school grounds until the end of the school day.

Appointments: Since August we have requested that appointments are made outside of school hours where possible or later in the school day as pupils are to remain off the premises once they leave until the next school day. This is a precautionary measure.

Masks: In line with PHA guidelines the school recommends the wearing of face masks. Masks must be worn at all times on entry to the school and in circulation. Many of the students have elected to wear their masks in class. Pupils can take breaks from wearing the masks if they become uncomfortable. Some pupils are exempt from wearing masks and carry a card which they can show when in circulation in school should anyone ask them.

Pupils are continually advised to wear masks on the buses. The school has circulated free masks to all bus users as per EA guidelines.

If a student comes to school without a mask she can ask the staff in the school office for a mask. A mask will always be provided in the event a student does not have the purchase price of 30p.

Social distancing: Classrooms have been marked with a 2 metre perimeter around the teacher area. Desks are set at one metre apart for the pupils in the classrooms. We advise pupils and staff to maintain social distance everywhere.

To minimise footfall around the school Year groups are in Zones with different entry and exit areas. The staff move to the classrooms to minimise pupil circulation around the school.

Hand washing and sanitising: Coughs and sneezes are advised to be directed to the elbow or a tissue. Pupils are reminded to wash hands regularly and hand sanitising units and equipment are strategically placed throughout the school and in classrooms. Pupils and staff are encouraged to keep the areas in which they work sanitised with sanitising fluids available in all areas.

Cleaning: Cleaners are on the premises daily keeping the main circulation areas clean and sanitised. This includes all surface areas including railings, door handles, ledges, re-evaluators for putting money on for Canteen and water fountains. Pupils and staff are encouraged to keep the areas in which they work clean with sanitising fluids available in all areas. Classrooms are cleaned thoroughly at the end of the day.

Please refer to the school's information on our website titled Covid-19 for further guidance, policies and procedures. Each pupil has received a compact reference manual "Covid-19 Health and Safety Guidance for students."

I value the efforts that everyone in this school is making to work with the guidelines in place to keep everyone safe.

Parents, your help in encouraging pupils to adhere to the guidelines, both in school and in the community, is vital.

Parents who require any further information can contact the school directly: Tel:02882243633

Yours sincerely
 Grainne T O'Hanlon
 Principal

Symptoms	Close Contact
<p>*PHA advice states that a pupil is considered to be symptomatic if she is displaying one of three symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new continuous cough • A high temperature • Anosmia: a loss or change in normal sense of smell which can also affect sense of taste. 	<p>A close contact is: A person who has been close to a confirmed case from 2 days before the person was symptomatic to 10 days after the onset of symptoms and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lives in the same household • has travelled in a car with the case • has been within 2 metres of a case for more than 15 minutes <p>OR has been within 1 metre of a case and had face-to-face contact including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being coughed on • having a face-to-face conversation • having skin-to-skin physical contact