



## Quick Guide for Schools/Childcare Facilities - Management of cases and close contacts of COVID-19

All cases and close contacts are managed in line with Public Health Guidance. Please see guidance on the management of [cases and close contacts of COVID-19](#) and FAQs for [educational settings](#).

If you are a Principal or Manager of a school or childcare facility you can also contact your designated HSE Helpline if you have any queries.

**Table 1 – Summary of guidance for children or staff with symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19**

Situation	Recommendations
<p><b>Anyone with <a href="#">symptoms of COVID-19</a></b></p> <p>Regardless of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vaccination status</li> <li>• whether they have previously had COVID-19</li> <li>• close contact status</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must <a href="#">immediately self-isolate (stay in your room)</a> and be tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>The type of test depends on the age or medical history of the person with symptoms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Children aged between 0-3 – <a href="#">book PCR test online</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive – manage as a confirmed case (see below)</li> <li>• If negative – must continue to restrict movements (stay home) until their symptoms have substantially or fully-resolved for 48 hours.</li> <li>• Children under 3 months – advice from a GP should be sought</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2. People aged between 4-39 years – Rapid Antigen Test (RADT)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person should do three RADTs over three consecutive days. The first test should be performed as soon as possible.</li> <li>• If all three tests are negative, and if it is 48 hours since their symptoms have substantially or fully resolved, they can exit self-isolation</li> <li>• If any of the three RADTs are positive, register the positive result with the HSE <a href="#">here</a> and manage as a confirmed case (see below)</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>3. People over 40 – <a href="#">book PCR test online</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive – manage as a confirmed case (see below)</li> <li>• If negative – must continue to restrict movements (stay home) until their symptoms have substantially or fully-resolved for 48 hours</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>4. People of any age with conditions or medications affecting their immune system or who are in <a href="#">risk groups</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact your GP</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>5. People with symptoms who have been identified as close contacts, and who test negative on PCR/ three RADTs, must continue to follow the close contact advice they were given for the relevant period of time (see Table 2)</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>People who test positive for COVID-19 on PCR or RADT</b></p>	<p>All people who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate (stay in their room) for 7 full days from the onset of their symptoms or date of their test if they have no symptoms. They must follow Public Health guidance for <a href="#">positive PCR</a> or <a href="#">positive antigen test</a> as appropriate. The Contact Management Programme will be in touch to identify close contacts.</p> <p>Parents of children attending school/childcare facilities or staff in educational facilities are asked to notify the Childcare Manager/Principal of any positive PCR or RADT results.</p> <p>After the 7 full days of self-isolation, there are some extra precautions advised for the next three days (Day 8, Day 9 and Day 10). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wearing a face covering</li> <li>• Avoiding contact with anyone at risk of severe illness from COVID-19</li> <li>• Working from home unless it is essential to go to work in person</li> </ul>

**Table 2 – Summary of Guidance for Close Contacts of Covid-19 who have no symptoms (asymptomatic)**

Situation	Recommendations
Anyone of any age who has recovered from COVID-19 since 01/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No requirement to restrict movements or have testing done unless symptoms develop (see Table 1 for advice if symptoms develop)</li> </ul>
Children aged 0-12 identified as close contacts <b>outside the household or educational setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No requirement to restrict movements or have testing done unless symptoms develop (see Table 1 for advice if symptoms develop)</li> </ul>
Child aged 0-3 identified as a <b>household contact</b> of a case of Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should <a href="#">restrict their movements</a> for 7 full days. Restricted movements should begin from date of last contact with positive case.</li> <li>They are not required to have testing done unless symptoms develop (see table 1 for info)</li> </ul>
Children aged 4-12 identified as a <b>household contact</b> of a case of Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should <a href="#">restrict their movements</a> for 7 full days. Restricted movements should begin from date of last contact with positive case.</li> <li>Children aged 9-12 years old should wear a well fitted mask as frequently as is reasonably practical during this period</li> <li>Complete 3 antigen tests - one as soon as possible, one 3 days later and final one on 7<sup>th</sup> day</li> <li>If symptoms develop or a RADT is positive, follow advice in Table 1</li> </ul>
Children aged 4-12 identified as a close contact in the <b>Mainstream Educational setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the same Pod as a case</li> <li>Or in a class where two or more cases in different Pods are identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No requirement to restrict movements unless symptoms develop</li> <li>The child is invited to participate in the antigen testing programme.</li> <li>School principals are asked to text relevant parents to inform them about how they can access free antigen tests for their children in the identified pod. Antigen Freephone number is: 1800 110055 or parents may order antigen test online via <a href="http://www.hse.ie/schooltest">www.hse.ie/schooltest</a></li> <li>If symptoms develop or a RADT is positive, follow advice in Table 1</li> </ul>
Children identified as close contacts in the <b>Special Educational setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close contacts are determined by Public Health Risk Assessment</li> <li>Children identified as close contacts will normally be asked to restrict their movements for five days after their last contact with the case</li> <li>They will be offered an optional PCR test on Day 5</li> <li>If symptoms develop or a RADT is positive, follow advice in Table 1</li> </ul>
<b>Close contacts aged 13 and over</b> who are fully vaccinated plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. more than 7 days after their booster</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>B. Had previous COVID-19 infection within the past 3 months (but not on test carried out since December 1st 2021 – see above)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Restricted Movements</li> <li>Wear an FFP2 mask or medical grade mask (surgical mask) for 10 full days following their last contact with the case, or if not known, from the date they are informed they are a close contact.</li> <li>Complete 3 antigen tests - one as soon as possible, one 3 days later and final one on 7<sup>th</sup> day</li> <li>If symptoms develop or a RADT is positive, follow advice in Table 1</li> </ul>
<b>All other close contacts over the age of 13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Fully vaccinated but no booster and have not had COVID-19 in the past 3 months</li> <li>B. Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict Movements for 7 days from last contact with the case if known or if not known, from the date they are informed they are a close contact.</li> <li>Wear an FFP2 mask or medical grade mask (surgical mask) for 10 full days</li> <li>Complete 3 antigen tests - one as soon as possible, one 3 days later and final on 7<sup>th</sup> day</li> <li>If symptoms develop or a RADT is positive follow advice in Table 1.</li> </ul>