



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15, D15 VWO2
www.scoilthomais.ie

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF
PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN A SCHOOL SETTING

The HSE has issued guidance for parents/guardians, which addresses the following issues in relation to Covid-19.

- *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*

You can access this guidance at the following link: HSE: Covid-19 Advice for Parents

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

1.If your child becomes unwell at school and presents with symptoms associated with Covid-19,

The School will follow the procedures outlined in Section 9 of the school's Covid-19 Response Plan (available to read on www.scoilthomais.ie ABOUTUS/COVID 19).

This involves taking your child to a designated area within the school. This area is called an "isolation area" and the school is required to have such an area to deal with a potential case of Covid-19.

The school office will contact the child's parent/guardian 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 taken home from the school at this stage

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. You should email the school office secretary@scoilthomais.ie as soon as possible. The next steps will depend on advice given by your GP.

2. If your child is referred for a Covid-19 test by the GP, all other children in your house that attend the school should remain at home or be removed from school as soon as you are notified,

3. 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 by the HSE Public Health Team to assess the Public Health Risk. From this point onwards, the management of the process will be led by the Public Health HSE.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The school cannot take any action in relation to exclusion, part closure or full closure, unless the Public Health HSE determine that the action is required. If any such action is required, the HSE will liaise with the school to provide clear guidance to the school community. If the school is not contacted by the Public Health HSE in relation to a confirmed case in the school community, then contact with the school has not been deemed necessary.

The HSE and School acknowledge that dealing with a suspected or confirmed case causes anxiety for families, however all pupils and their families are entitled to confidentiality. **The school cannot and will not make the name of a pupil with a suspected or confirmed case known to the public.**

Unfortunately, the school and HSE have no control over exchanges on social media, where information based on hearsay is shared. The school respectfully request that parents/guardians who choose to communicate about this issue on social media should consider how these comments could be misinterpreted. Please refrain from naming pupils and their families on any public or social media platforms.

The School will continue to implement the measures set out in Scoil Thomáis Covid-19 Response Plan to provide a safe learning environment for our pupils and a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff. The continued co-operation of parents/guardians with the management of the present covid19 pandemic is appreciated.