

Advice for parents during Covid-19: Back to School in September 2021 – Post-Primary Schools



School communities are working hard, with the support of public health officials, to ensure the safe operation of our schools for students, staff and families.

All schools have put in place rules and routines which must be followed to keep everyone safe. The latest public health advice on returning to school is available on gov.ie/backtoschool.



If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more, a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse, other uncommon symptoms of Covid-19, such as sore throat, headaches or diarrhoea

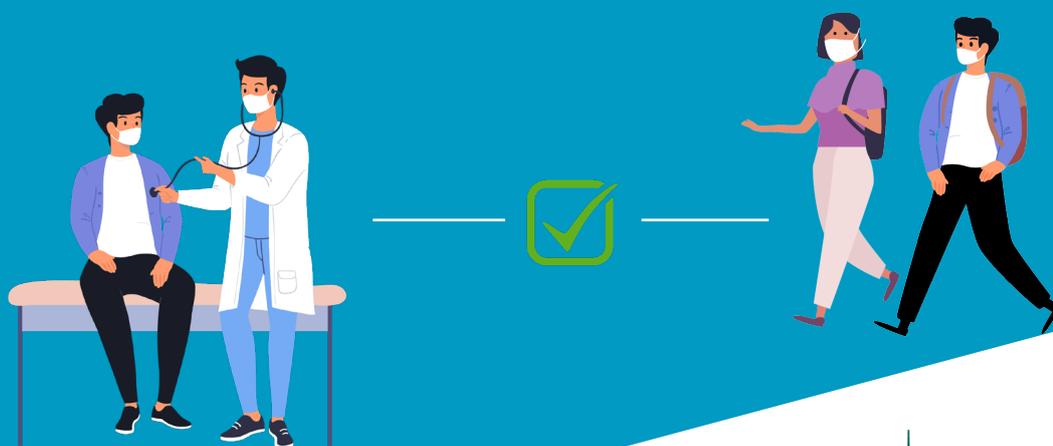
Do not send your child to school if they have:

- Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- Been living with someone who is unwell and may have Covid-19



See [here](#) for more.

- If your GP sends your child for a Covid-19 test, your child should remain at home until a negative test result is received
- If Covid-19 is not detected from the test, they can return to school once their symptoms are clear
- If Covid-19 is detected, they must self-isolate and follow the instructions from public health
- Public health will provide guidance to you on the next steps to follow. Read the HSE guide for parents [here](#) or see gov.ie/backtoschool for a live link.



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

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- **Good handwashing and hygiene practice** – important for all students. It's important that students' hands are washed regularly. Where possible students should be taught to cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue which must be binned immediately.

- All measures in schools in the last year remain in place in 2021/2022. Public Health is satisfied that these measures help keep schools safe.



- Staff members will wear appropriate **personal protective equipment (PPE)** when they cannot keep 2 metres apart from others.
- Schools have been provided with the funding to supply this PPE for staff members.



- **School transport** – students have an assigned seat that they must sit in.

- If you have travelled abroad recently please make sure you have followed all the current guidelines in place for you and your children. See [here](#) for more information or see gov.ie/covid-19-travel-advice for a live link.

