



St. Angela's National School

SCOIL NAOMH AINGEAL

Roll No: 18694M

RETURN TO SCHOOL - JANUARY 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and that you and your families are all well and healthy.

2022 is upon us and whilst we are very glad to be returning to the school building to continue the very high standards of teaching and learning here we are also aware that we can only do this with your continued support and cooperation.

Now more than ever we are relying on people to **take personal responsibility to adhere fully to Public Health advice** regarding what to do if you or someone in your household is a close contact or is displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

Symptoms

Nobody should attend school if they have any [symptoms](#) of Covid-19. Families must take a precautionary approach, particularly for children less able to articulate their symptoms, i.e. if a child appears unwell, observe them at home and contact your GP/HSE as appropriate. Students who have symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home, isolate and arrange to have a COVID-19 test. There are 2 types of COVID-19 test available from the HSE (1) antigen tests (home test kits) and (2) PCR tests (done at a test centre and sent to a lab). Children (or anyone between 4 to 39 years of age) who have symptoms of COVID-19 are offered antigen tests firstly and they do not book a PCR test unless they get a positive antigen test result.

Close contacts

Anyone who has been told by the HSE services that they are a close contact of a case of Covid-19, needs to adhere to the advice on the [HSE website](#) in relation to restricted movements and testing.

- **Children under 13 years who are household close contacts must restrict their movements** for 14 days and they are offered PCR testing at day 0 and day 10. On receipt of a day 10 not-detected PCR test result, they may exit restricted movements. It is important that anyone who has been identified as a close contact, is very aware of COVID-19 symptoms, and isolate and undergo testing should they develop any symptoms.
- If your child is deemed a **close contact through a school setting**, we will advise the pod as has been previously explained and send you advice as to what to do then.

Links to advice

- Advice on symptoms and treatment is available [here](#)
- Advice on testing is available [here](#)
This includes the link to order antigen tests for anyone between the ages of 4 and 39 who has symptoms of Covid-19 which is available [here](#).
- Advice on what to do if someone is a close contact is available [here](#)
- Advice on restricting movements and self-isolation is available [here](#)
- Advice for people at higher risk is available [here](#)
- Advice on preventing the spread of Covid-19 is available [here](#)

I also attach to this email the **latest isolation guides which were updated today** for you to download and refer to as necessary. One refers to children < 13 and the other document refers to everyone > 13. It is likely these will again change depending on vaccination status etc.

The Department of Education has asked us to remind of the importance of abiding by the national public health measures currently in place at all times e.g. vaccination (including boosters), social distancing, use of face masks, hand hygiene, ventilation and minimising social contacts.

We have also been asked to advise you that the vaccination portal through which you can book vaccinations for children from 5 upwards to prevent against Covid-19 is now open and can be found [here](#).

Finally, **a reminder that all children from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class must wear a mask at school**. We ask all adults on the school grounds to social distance and wear a mask also.

Children may wear school tracksuits. It's advisable that they wear an extra layer of clothing and they must have a coat.

Please advise the school if your contact details (including telephone number/email address) etc. have changed. **It is really important that an adult in the household is contactable at all times**. If a pupil displays any symptoms of Covid-19 in school our Covid-19 Response plan will be followed and parents will be required to collect the pupil as quickly as possible.

If there is any doubt whatsoever that a student has had contact with a Covid-positive person, or is displaying any Covid-19 symptoms, an antigen test should be taken prior to returning to school.

We continue to update our Covid information and resources on our school [website](#).

We look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of all but especially the children.
Happy and Healthy 2022.

Le meas,
Nessa Maloney
Principal



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