

Please keep an eye on your children's health, and be mindful of your own health. It is particularly important to be alert for the [symptoms of Covid-19](#). Any child or staff member with symptoms must self-isolate and contact their GP for advice regarding a COVID-19 test or attend a walk-in test centre.

Advice for close contacts who are not fully-vaccinated against Covid-19 (This will be determined by the HSE):

- Close contacts who are not fully-vaccinated will need to go for two PCR tests for Covid-19, one as soon as possible and one on Day 10 after their last exposure to the COVID-19 case.
- They will need to restrict their movements until the Day 10 test has been done. This includes not attending work or school.
- If the Day 10 test result is "not detected" or negative, the child or staff member can return to school or childcare provided they do not have symptoms of Covid-19.

Advice for close contacts who are fully-vaccinated against Covid-19:

Close contacts who are fully-vaccinated against Covid-19 are required to restrict their movements until they receive a call from the HSE Contact Management Programme. During this call a review of each close contact's vaccination (dates and type) and medical history will determine whether the vaccine is likely to provide "significant immunity" for them. **The close contact will then be advised whether they can return to school or whether they need to continue to restrict movements.**

A person is considered to be fully-vaccinated:

- 7 days after receipt of the second Pfizer-BioNTech dose (two dose vaccination course)
- 15 days after receipt of the second AstraZeneca dose (two dose vaccination course)
- 14 days after receipt of the second Moderna dose (two dose vaccination course)
- 14 days after receipt of the Johnson/Jansen dose (one dose vaccination course)

What about the families of those who are close contacts?

Other people who live at home with the close contact do not need to restrict their movements, provided the close contact has no Covid symptoms. This means they can continue to attend school. If the close contact tests positive for Covid-19, the household will then need to restrict their movements.

What if a close contact declines the Covid-19 test?

Testing is not mandatory. But any close contact who does not have a Day 10 test must continue to restrict their movements for 14 days after their last contact with the person with Covid-19.

Other ways to protect our school community:

1. Please continue effective and diligent support of the children and all in the school community during the Covid-19 pandemic, even with high population uptake of Covid-19 vaccination. It is important to reinforce to your school community that all public health guidelines still need to be followed to protect the health of children and staff, these include:
 - ✓ Wearing face coverings
 - ✓ Cleaning hands regularly
 - ✓ Maintaining physical distance from others
 - ✓ Being mindful of the ventilation of classrooms by classrooms by opening windows and doors as appropriate
2. If eligible for vaccination access appropriate information around this (available at <https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/>) For those wishing to arrange vaccination, they can do so by either:
 - Registering using the HSE Vaccine portal (<https://vaccine.hse.ie/#register>)
 - **OR** phoning the HSE at 1800 700 700