



# A parent's guide to close contacts

**This guide sets out what to expect when your child has been told they are a close contact of Covid-19 in school.**

The HSE is working closely with schools to make sure the health of all children and staff in the school is protected. If a person has been diagnosed with Covid-19, the HSE will identify everyone who has been in close contact with the person with Covid-19. This includes the parents/guardians of all children as well as any staff who were in close contact with the person.

## **Close contact**

If your child has been identified as a close contact, it means they have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19. Please try not to worry. The risk of your child becoming infected with Covid-19 from this close contact is small. Less than 2 children in 100 children tested as close contacts are found to have Covid-19 too. Even if your child does become infected with the virus, most children don't get any symptoms, or have a very mild illness.

## **My child is a close contact**

The school will contact you to bring your child home from school, if they are identified as a close contact. Please make sure the school has your most up-to-date contact information so they can call you if your child needs to be picked up.

You will naturally be concerned, but if your child has no symptoms of Covid-19, please follow the advice below. If your child has symptoms of Covid-19, please immediately isolate your child and ring your GP.

## **My child's COVID-19 test**

Keep your phone close to you and make sure it is switched on. The HSE will contact you to organise coronavirus testing for your child free of charge. You will receive a text message with details of the test appointment location, date and time. Most people receive their test result within 2 days.

**The HSE will arrange a free COVID-19 test for your child and contact you with the appointment. Do not ring your GP, unless your child developed symptoms.**

## **Restricting your child's movements**

Your child must restrict their movements for 14 days, since they were last in close contact with the person who has tested positive for Covid-19. The HSE will tell you the date the 14 days of restricted movements will finish.