

Advice for parents during Covid-19:

Back to School in September 2021 – Primary Schools



School communities are working hard, with the support of public health officials, to ensure the safe operation of our schools for pupils, 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, fatigue, aches or pains, other uncommon symptoms of Covid-19, such as sore throat, headaches, diarrhoea, runny or stuffy nose or feeling sick or vomiting

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 pupils. It's important that pupils' hands are washed regularly. Where possible pupils 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** – pupils have an assigned seat that they must sit in.

- **Pick up** and **drop off** can be a busy time.

- Please ensure social distancing by following the school's guidance on when and where to go. Please drop and collect your child quickly without lingering.



- 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.

- Parents should follow public health advice on socialising outside of the household to keep their children safe outside of school.

