



Loreto Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Following on from a few queries we have received recently, I would like to clarify that if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in any school in the country that it is the HSE who will manage and lead responsibility for the case. All decisions as to appropriate actions following a confirmed case will be made by their teams in the context of a full Public Health Risk Assessment which they will carry out.

Any actions to be taken by the school **will be communicated directly by the HSE.**

The HSE Public Health doctors are responsible for all contact tracing when a case of Covid-19 is confirmed. The definition of close contacts within a school will be variable and determined by the HSE and will take account of individual factors within each school or class. It will not be automatically assumed that a whole class will be deemed as close contacts. Close contacts will be directly notified by the HSE and advised to restrict their movements and present for testing on day zero and day seven. Close contacts will be required to restrict their movements for 14 days even in the event that Covid-19 is not detected in both of these tests.

Confidentiality is mandatory at all times and all schools have been directed that they cannot inform other parents or staff members that a student or staff member has gone home due to their symptoms. Speculation in general and particularly on social media about Covid-19 cases in schools causes unnecessary anxiety and distress. I would ask that everyone desists from any such speculation or comment.

Parents must not send their daughter(s) to school if they have any of the Covid-19 symptoms, if their daughter has been identified as a close contact or if she lives with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19. They should instead phone their doctor and follow HSE guidance on restriction of movement.

Where a student has been advised by the HSE to restrict her movements, and therefore cannot attend school, all efforts will be made to provide work online for the student.

Wishing you and your family continued good health.

Yours sincerely

Emma Raughter
Principal