Dear Parent/Guardian 23-9-2020

We have been back to school now for over 20 days and all the staff and students have responded very well to the many changes we have in place. Our 1st year students have settled in and have adapted well to a new school environment.

I feel that now is a good time to outline in some detail, how both you, as parents/guardians and St Ailbe’s, are managing Covid-19 in our school. The points outlined below may help to provide you with guidance around sending your child to school.

1. **Recognise the Symptoms of Coronavirus**

**Very common** **symptoms** are fever (high temperature 380 C or above), a new cough, shortness of breath, lost or changed sense of smell or taste. **Less common** s**ymptoms** are sore throat, runny or blocked nose, or headache. **Occasional symptoms** are diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting.

**2. If you have any common symptoms** of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should [self-isolate](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/managing-coronavirus-at-home/self-isolation.html) and phone your GP straight away. Your GP will advise you on the next steps to take.

1. **You will need to self-isolate:**

• if you have symptoms of coronavirus

• before you get tested for coronavirus

• if you are waiting for test results

• if you have had a positive test result for coronavirus

1. **How to self-isolate**

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people. Behave as if you have the virus if you have symptoms. If you have been diagnosed with coronavirus or have symptoms, the people you live with will need to restrict their movements.

1. **What to do if ? Subject to change**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Condition** | **Person** | **Others** |
| **Some medical symptoms that may be Covid-19 related and awaiting medical assessment to determine if testing is required** | Self-isolate pending assessment | No restrictions |
| **Covid-19 Symptoms, not tested** | Self-isolate for 10 days **(consecutive days including Saturday and Sunday)** with no fever for last 5 days  | Close contacts restrict movements for 10 days |
| **Covid-19 symptoms awaiting test results** | Self-isolate pending results | Members of household restrict movements |
| **Covid-19 test result “Not Detected”** | Continue to self-isolate until you have not had any symptoms for 48 hours.  | Return to normal activities |
| **Covid-19 test result “Detected”** | Continue to self-isolate for 10 days from when you first developed symptoms with the last 5 days without a fever | Close contacts restrict movements for 10 days (after last contact with case) |

Please remember you must keep the school informed, at all times, why your child cannot attend school. Under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 “where a child is absent from school…the parent of such child shall…notify the school of the reasons for the child’s absence”. Our HSCL teacher will be following up an all absenteeism even if Covid-19 related.

In addition, if your child absenteeism relates to Covi-19, a **Return to Education after Covid-19 related Absenteeism (see link below)** form, available to download on St Ailbe’s website, must be completed before their return to school.

https://www.stailbes.ie/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/09/Return-to-Educational-Facility-declaration-form.pdf

Should you have any queries in relation to anything outlined above, or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact us on any of the numbers below.

Yours sincerely

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