



Saplings Special School

May/ June 2021

Saplings
Educating for life

Covid-19 Reminder:

The Kildare area has been hit hard with Covid-19 positives since the schools re-opened after Easter. Many classrooms, year groups and schools in Kildare have announced closures in recent days. We all need to pay extra close attention to the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and take all necessary precautions to keep our school community safe, and hopefully avoid any closures in Saplings.

As per current DES and HSE rules, you must not send your child to school if your child has:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- Any other common symptoms - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 or been living with someone who is unwell and may have Covid-19
- For 48 hours after taking paracetamol or ibuprofen (for any reason)
- For 48 hours after the last instance of vomiting and/ or diarrhoea

In order to protect our students & staff, the school will have to send any child who has Covid-19 symptoms home, and they will have to remain home until they are 48 hours symptom free.

If your child has any common symptoms of Covid-19 you will need to:

- Isolate your child as much as possible.
- Phone your GP - they will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test
- Get advice from your GP about whether anyone the child lives with also needs to isolate or if they can attend school/ work.
- Treat your child at home for their symptoms. Keep your child at home until they are 48 hours symptom free.
- Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.

Children who are close contacts of someone who has coronavirus

- If your child has been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus, you should restrict their movements for 14 days, even if they feel well.
- If your child develops symptoms, isolate your child and phone your GP to arrange a test for coronavirus.

When it is okay to send your child to school or childcare

It's usually okay to send your child to school or childcare if they:

- only have nasal symptoms, such as a runny nose or a sneeze
- do not have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen)
- do not have a cough
- have not been in close contact with anyone who has coronavirus and do not live with anyone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- have been told by a GP that their illness is caused by something else, that is not coronavirus. Your GP will tell you when they can return to school or childcare.
- have got a negative ('not detected') coronavirus test result and have not had symptoms for 48 hours.

If you notice any symptoms please keep your child off school and monitor them until they are 48 hours symptom free. We all need to be extra cautious at the moment due to the high numbers of Covid-19 cases in Kildare schools at present.