



# Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please note amendments below in blue.

## **PRIMARY CHILDREN WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS**

### **A close contact can be:**

- anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19
- or
- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:
  - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  - skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
  - been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
  - been within two metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
  - travelled in the same vehicle
  - travelled in the same plane

### **Steps to take if a child is a close contact:**

- Take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as possible.
- If this is negative the child can stop isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case.
- The lateral flow should ideally be taken before the child leaves the house for the first time each day.
- **If any lateral flow test is positive, the child should isolate immediately. A PCR test is NOT needed.**
- **If at any time the child develops symptoms, and the lateral flow is negative, the child should isolate immediately and a PCR booked.**

## **NURSERY CHILDREN WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS**

It is no longer necessary for nursery children to take a PCR test – even if they have symptoms like a cough or temperature - unless advised to do so by their doctor. If they develop symptoms, and are identified as a close contact of a positive case, parents are encouraged to carry out a lateral flow test. If this is positive they should then take a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Daily lateral flow tests are not required.



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If a nursery child has been identified as a close contact, and has symptoms, there is an increased risk that the child may have COVID-19. If it is not possible to carry out any test because the child will not tolerate the swab, parents and carers should take a cautious approach and avoid contact with vulnerable and older adults, and therefore should not send the child to nursery. They should also stay at home until they do not have a temperature and are well enough to return to school.

## **CHILDREN WHO TEST POSITIVE**

If the lateral flow or PCR result is positive the child should isolate for 10 days from the date the lateral flow or PCR test was taken, or the date symptoms started, whichever is sooner.

### **Ending Isolation Early**

Self-isolation may be ended early before the end of the 10 full days provided the child has two negative lateral flow tests (LFT) taken 24 hours apart.

The child can take the first LFT from day six of the isolation period. The second should be taken the following day at least 24 hours later.

If both these test results are negative, and the child does not have a high temperature, the child may end self-isolation after the second negative test result.

The earliest a person can end isolation is on day seven (providing the LFTs on day six and seven are both negative).

If either the day six or seven test are positive the test can be done again the following day. Self-isolation should only end after two consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. Testing should stop after two consecutive negative test results.

Self-isolation can be ended as long as the child does not still have a high temperature. If the child still has a high temperature, they need to continue to self-isolate until the temperature has returned to normal for 48 hours.