

# St Patrick's R.C. High School Covid-19 Response

## Parental Guide - November 2021

*The following document is based on the Salford City Council Guidance for when a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus in an education/childcare setting.*

*For more detailed guidance please see the following document:*

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19)

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### **Identifying symptoms of Covid-19**

**The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:**

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature (fever)
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Any one of the above symptoms gives reason for high level of suspicion for COVID-19.**

**An unwell person or child could be a possible case of COVID-19.**

**A combination of 2 or more symptoms below gives reason for high level of suspicion for COVID-19.**

- Vomiting / nausea / lack of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Sleeping more than usual
- Complaining of not feeling themselves
- Listless/restless/agitated
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling cold, headache
- Severe body aches
- Sore throat/congested or runny nose - anything that is not feeling themselves.

**\*For fevers, the NHS advice is to look for a high temperature – ‘this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back; you do not need to measure your temperature’\***

## **FAQs: Dealing with suspected cases, testing, & positive cases**

### **Q1: What should I do if my child is at home and is displaying one of the common symptoms of Covid-19, or a combination of other symptoms as listed above?**

DO NOT send your child into school if they are unwell as outlined above. Please inform the school as soon as it is possible to do so. You are advised to take your child for testing as soon as possible and you must inform the school of any test results (positive and negative). Your child will need to self-isolate until the result of the test is known.

### **Q2: How do I book a test?**

You can book online at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or get in touch with the Salford public health case and contact management team on **0800 952 1000** and select **Infection Control Advice**.

### **Q3: What happens if my child begins to display one of the common symptoms of Covid-19, or a combination of other symptoms whilst in school?**

Your child will be assessed on site and if found to have one or more of the symptoms listed above they will be isolated. You will then be contacted and asked to collect your child from school immediately. You will be advised to arrange a Covid-19 test as soon as possible. Your child should then self-isolate whilst awaiting the results from the Covid-19 test. You should inform the school immediately when the test results are returned.

### **Q4: If a child or staff member in school is sent home with symptoms of Covid-19, what's the impact on other pupils? Will other pupils be sent home too?**

If we have a suspected case in school we will isolate that child and send them home, telling them to stay at home until the outcome of their test is known. However, siblings of the unwell child and other pupils who are in the same classes or friendship groups of this child would remain in school, assuming they don't have symptoms themselves. If the test result comes back as negative, that person who originally had symptoms may return to school once they feel well enough (with the exception of fever, diarrhoea and vomiting where the individual needs to be 48 hours free of these symptoms).

### **Q5: What happens if my child is unwell and is tested for Covid-19 but that test comes back negative?**

You should inform school immediately of the negative test result. Your child can then return to school when they are no longer feeling unwell.

### **Q6: What happens if my child is tested for Covid-19 and that test comes back positive?**

You should inform the school immediately of the positive test result. Your child should self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days (from the date the symptoms started if they had symptoms or from the date of their test if they were symptom-free) or until they feel better and their symptoms have gone if this is longer.

**Q7: What happens if another child in my child's year group is tested for Covid-19 and that test comes back positive?**

People no longer are required to self-isolate if they live with someone who has covid-19 or if they have come into close contact with some who has covid-19 ONLY IF: fully vaccinated, are below age 18 and 6 months, are taking part in a covid-19 vaccine trial or can't get vaccinated for medical reasons. This means for all of our children, they can remain in school even if someone at homes tests positive or if a class mate tests positive (assuming they are well and have no symptoms themselves).

**Q8: What should my child do if someone else in our household is unwell with symptoms and/or is awaiting the result of a test for coronavirus?**

In the event that anyone in your household is potentially unwell with the Covid-19 symptoms, that person should seek a Covid-19 test as soon as possible. In the meantime, you SHOULD continue to send your child into school.

**Q9: What will happen if a teacher / staff member that has taught my child is off work or sent home with symptoms of Covid-19?**

Your child can continue to come to school as normal (assuming they don't have symptoms themselves).

If their test comes back negative:

- The staff member will only return once they feel well enough.
- All pupils will continue to come to school as normal (assuming they are well and don't have symptoms)

If the test comes back positive:

- The staff member will continue to self-isolate for 10 days and only return once they feel well enough.
- All pupils will continue to come to school as normal (assuming they are well and don't have symptoms)

**Q11: What if I don't want my child to be tested?**

It is imperative that we are proactive in helping to reduce the spread of this virus and we would urge all parents and carers to seek testing where necessary for all members of their household bubble if symptoms occur. Please speak to us if you have any concerns or if you need any help in arranging a test.

**Q12: What if my child is unwell and I suspect it is simply a case of seasonal flu / a common cold?**

Whilst we recognize that flu-like illnesses are prevalent at this time of year, the only way we can be certain is through testing.

Many of the symptoms of Covid-19 overlap those of a common cold or the flu, however, as per the guidelines at the start of this document, if your child or anyone in your household is displaying one of the more common symptoms or two or more of the additional symptoms, then we must treat it as a possible case of Covid-19 and act accordingly.

**Q13: Other than the school, is there anyone else I need to contact if my child or someone in my household / household bubble tests positive for Covid-19?**

Yes. On receiving a positive result, the household should log on to the NHS Test and Trace portal to identify all their close contacts (<https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/>).