



What I should do if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in St. Malachy's College.

If you have:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature); OR
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY GUIDANCE (PHA)

The most up-to-date guidance from the Public Health Agency on what to do if you think you or a member of your household has one or more symptoms of COVID-19 is available by clicking on this link:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing-covid-19/testing-covid-19>

Currently, PHA advice is:

While waiting for your test or if you receive a positive diagnosis for COVID-19:

- you'll need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started;
- **after 10 days** from when your symptoms started:
 - if you **have not had a high temperature for 48 hours**, you no longer need to self-isolate;
 - if you **still have a high temperature**, you need to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal for 48 hours.
- you do not need to self-isolate if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste after 10 days, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.
- if you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to stay at home and self-isolate also. If the person with symptoms tests positive for COVID-19, everyone in the household without symptoms will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms;
- however, if you develop symptoms during this 14-day period, you'll need to stay at home for at least 10 days from the day your symptoms started (regardless of what day you are on in the original 14-day period). Follow the advice above on when to end self-isolation.

Where an individual has had a negative result, it is important to still apply caution. If everyone with symptoms who has tested in their household receive a negative result, the pupil or member of staff can return to work providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours. If you or any member of your household have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until you get the result.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PUPIL REPORTS UNWELL WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS WHILE IN SCHOOL?

- If at any time while present in the College, a pupil develops symptoms of COVID-19, he must immediately inform his class teacher.
- He will be sent directly to the Matron's office, and must wear a face mask at all times from the point of feeling unwell. He must wait **outside** Matron's office on one of the chairs provided.
- The Matron will then take him to the College's designated isolation room. The Matron will wear appropriate PPE and maintain social distancing.
- Parent/carer will be contacted to come and collect their son.
- It is essential that the parent/carer follows the PHA advice on testing and self-isolation.

- We request that parents/carers inform the College of the outcome of the COVID-19 test, and make arrangements with the College for the pupil's return, ensuring that all PHA guidance has been followed.

If a member of staff reports as having COVID-19 symptoms, they will immediately go home and follow PHA advice.

TESTING: Anyone waiting for a test result must **NOT** come in to school until they get the result.

If the test result is negative:

- The pupil can return to school providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If the result is positive:

- The guidance from the PHA on staying at home and self-isolating must be followed. The pupil will be contacted by the Contact Tracing Service in the PHA, and will need to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom they have been in direct contact, or been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes.
- Enhanced cleaning will be carried out within any classroom(s) in which an individual who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 has been in. This will help to minimise the risk of the spread of the virus. If enhanced cleaning cannot take place, then the classroom(s) will be closed off and secured until enhanced cleaning has been completed. Only after this, will staff and children return to this area.
- Public areas where a confirmed case has passed through and spent minimal time in (such as corridors) but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids will be cleaned in accordance with the normal system of work.
- PHA guidance under the Test and Trace and Protect programme will be followed by all staff and pupils who have been in **close contact** with someone who tests positive for Covid-19. Contact in this context means spending 15 or more minutes within 2 metres of distance of the person infected. In a classroom situation this would mean those pupils sitting within 2m of a pupil who has tested positive for more than 15 minutes. Staff have been asked to keep accurate seating plans for each class to help identify those pupils who may have had close contact with the individual. Passing in corridors and short periods of contact **do not** present a significant risk to staff or pupils. The wearing of masks, regular hand hygiene and social distancing all help to mitigate the risk of the infection spreading.
- The College will co-operate with and act on advice given by the Contact Tracing Service (PHA). The Contact Tracing Service will advise on what further measures need to be taken by the school. If PHA advises that the school should close, then staff will commence on line learning until such times as the school reopens.
- Pupils who are self-isolating will have work provided for them in the same way as pupils have been provided with work during periods of medium to long term illness in the past.
- Pupils can return to school when they have completed the necessary period of isolation as advised by the Test, Trace and Protect service. This will help contain any potential transmission to those staff/pupils and will also assist in protecting the wider community.

Attached are a number of flow charts, to help you decide what you need to do. As the health situation is fluid, and guidance from the Government and health agencies changes accordingly, these charts must be used in conjunction with the advice on the PHA website.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing-covid-19/testing-covid-19>

You may find these sources of information helpful in deciding what you can do at home to manage the situation and reduce the risk of infection.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>