

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **1. Signs/Symptoms of Covid**

Symptoms may present differently in different age groups and with different variants of the virus. Some symptoms may also be confused with common cold, hay-fever or flu. If you have any new acute symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, self-isolate and contact your GP. However, if you or your child's symptoms are very mild then stay at home, reassess after 48 hours and contact your GP for advice.

Symptoms can include:

- fever of 38.0°C or higher without another medical reason (such as chickenpox or a urine infection) OR
- new cough or difficulty breathing or worsening of an existing breathing problem OR
- loss of sense of smell, change in sense of taste, or loss of sense of taste (if your child is able to say this) OR
- other minor breathing or chest problems in a child who has been in contact with an ill person, is part of an outbreak or is a contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Other symptoms associated with COVID-19 include fatigue, nasal congestion, conjunctivitis, sore throat, headache, muscle/joint pain, skin rash, nausea or vomiting, diarrhoea, chills or dizziness.

### **2. Control measure to prevent or minimise the spread of Covid-19**

All Tusla recommended measures have been implemented to prevent or minimise the spread of Covid-19 in our setting and in our community. These measures included:

- Correct hand hygiene/hand sanitising
- Correct respiratory hygiene
- Physical distancing whenever possible
- Minimising contact as far as possible
- Special consideration is given to at-risk staff, children and their families
- Strict cleaning and disinfection regime
- No visitor policy
- No hand shaking policy
- Exclusion of anyone with new symptoms of Covid-19
- Operation of play-pods
- Wearing face coverings (adults)
- Support, facilitate and strongly recommend vaccination of all staff who are able.

Full details of implemented measure can be found in our Infection control policy, Hygiene policy, Covid policy, Managing visitors during Covid policy and Illness exclusion policy.

### **3. When to keep your child at home and phone your GP**

Do not attend the setting if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more

- any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as 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 coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- an existing breathing condition that has recently got worse

***You will need to:***

- Isolate your child. This means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible. Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.
- Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test.
- Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a coronavirus test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.
- Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

**Please refer to the latest HSE isolation quick guide for parents available from the setting or the HSE website for details about the latest isolation requirements.**

**4. Dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19 in the setting**

While staff and children should not attend the setting if displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, the following steps outline how to manage a suspected case if it where to present during opening hours.

***General***

- **COVID-19 is a notifiable disease and as per our Infection control policy Tusla, the HSE Preschool Environmental Health Officer and the Public Health Department will be notified immediately of any infection within the service.**
- We have appointed **Jennifer Byrne** to be our Covid-19 coordinator, responsible for dealing with suspected cases of Covid-19 within our service.
- We have allocated an area at the backdoor to the setting as our isolation area and have ensured a 2-meter distance between the isolation area and all other areas. Any symptomatic person who cannot leave the service immediately will be asked to remain within our isolation area until they can either be collected or go home.
- Personal protective equipment i.e. disposable aprons, gloves, face masks; tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, dedicated pedal bins to dispose of any potential Covid waste material is readily available throughout the setting.

***Staff***

- Inform Covid Coordinator immediately.
- Relieve staff from duties. Staff member should leave the setting as soon as possible and avoid touching any surfaces, people or objects.
- Advise staff member to self-isolate at home and contact their GP immediately.
- If needed, arrange transport home or to hospital for medical assessment. **Public transport of any kind should not be used.**
- Carry out an assessment of the incident which will form any part of follow up actions.
- Arrange for immediate cleaning and disinfection of any and all areas the staff member was in contact with.

- Cover will be provided as per our staff absence policy and Covid supplemental staff absence policy.

### ***Child***

- Inform Covid Coordinator immediately.
- Without causing any unnecessary stress to the child, separate the child from the rest of the children by taking them to the isolation area immediately to lie down or play quietly.
- Depending on the age of the child provide a mask for the child and tissues if required and use the dedicated waste bin, as necessary.
- The staff member caring for the child in isolation should wear personal protective equipment i.e. face mask, disposable apron and gloves.
- The child should be comforted and kept calm but also encouraged not to touch surfaces, people or any objects.
- Contact the child's parents immediately and ask them to collect the child and to contact their GP. **Public transport of any kind should not be used.**
- Carry out an assessment of the incident which will form any part of follow up actions.
- Arrange for immediate cleaning and disinfection of the isolation area and any other area the child was in contact with.

### ***Cleaning and disinfection***

Cleaning and disinfection to be carried out as per our Cleaning and Infection Control policies.

## 5. Management of cases and close contacts of Covid (HSE 18Jan22)

Situation	Recommendations
<p><b>Anyone with <a href="#">symptoms of COVID-19</a></b></p> <p>Regardless of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vaccination status</li> <li>• whether they have previously had COVID-19</li> <li>• close contact status</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must <a href="#">immediately self-isolate (stay in your room)</a> and be tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>The type of test depends on the age or medical history of the person with symptoms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Children aged between 0-3 – <a href="#">book PCR test online</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive – manage as a confirmed case (see below)</li> <li>• If negative – must continue to restrict movements (stay home) until their symptoms have substantially or fully-resolved for 48 hours.</li> <li>• Children under 3 months – advice from a GP should be sought</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2. People aged between 4-39 years – Rapid Antigen Test (RADT)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person should do three RADTs over three consecutive days. The first test should be performed as soon as possible.</li> <li>• If all three tests are negative, and if it is 48 hours since their symptoms have substantially or fully resolved, they can exit self-isolation</li> <li>• If any of the three RADTs are positive, register the positive result with the HSE <a href="#">here</a> and manage as a confirmed case (see below)</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>3. People over 40 – <a href="#">book PCR test online</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive – manage as a confirmed case (see below)</li> <li>• If negative – must continue to restrict movements (stay home) until their symptoms have substantially or fully-resolved for 48 hours</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>4. People of any age with conditions or medications affecting their immune system or who are in <a href="#">risk groups</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact your GP</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>5. People with symptoms who have been identified as close contacts, and who test negative on PCR/ three RADTs, must continue to follow the close contact advice they were given for the relevant period of time (see Table 2)</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>People who test positive for COVID-19 on PCR or RADT</b></p>	<p>All people who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate (stay in their room) for 7 full days from the onset of their symptoms or date of their test if they have no symptoms. They must follow Public Health guidance for <a href="#">positive PCR</a> or <a href="#">positive antigen test</a> as appropriate. The Contact Management Programme will be in touch to identify close contacts.</p> <p>Parents of children attending school/childcare facilities or staff in educational facilities are asked to notify the Childcare Manager/Principal of any positive PCR or RADT results.</p> <p>After the 7 full days of self-isolation, there are some extra precautions advised for the next three days (Day 8, Day 9 and Day 10). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wearing a face covering</li> <li>• Avoiding contact with anyone at risk of severe illness from COVID-19</li> <li>• Working from home unless it is essential to go to work in person</li> </ul>