



Holy Rosary College

MOUNTBELLEW, CO. GALWAY
Tel: (090) 9679222 Fax: (090) 9679438
Email: info@hrc.ie
Web Site: www.hrc.ie

28/08/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are all looking forward to welcoming our students back to Holy Rosary College next week. A lot of work has taken place over the past number of weeks in order to get the school ready.

This year the return to school may be more challenging for students given the extended time students were away from school. We are aware of this and will do our best to support everybody on their return to school.

We ask our Students, Parents and Guardians to read the following information before they return.

TRAINING

On return to school students will be provided with training on:

- How to use a face mask correctly.
- How to sanitise your hands correctly.
- How to wash your hands correctly.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette.

LUNCH

The canteen is not ready for online ordering just yet and we ask all students to bring a packed lunch.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Students need to bring a drink with them as we have to disconnect the water fountains due to the risk of cross contamination.

STUDENT PPE

We require all students to wear a face mask. In the event they are unable to wear a face mask they should wear a shield/visor in school.

I recommend that each student brings a spare mask to school and has 2 small plastic Ziploc bags, one for clean face masks and one for used face masks.

We also ask all students to bring a small bottle of Hand Sanitiser with them.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students must wear their school uniform as normal.

STUDENTS WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

All students displaying symptoms are required to stay at home and not to attend school, to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation. The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- ✓ High temperature
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ✓ Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

If a student displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- The parents/guardians will be contacted immediately, and asked to collect the student as soon as possible.
- The student will be brought to an isolation room.
- The student should continue to wear a mask.
- A doctor will be called if necessary.
- The isolation room and any affected areas will receive appropriate cleaning afterwards.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and student confidentiality is essential at all times.

SCHOOL BUSES


The guidelines for students travelling on school buses are as follows:

- Not to use school transport if they are displaying symptoms
- To maintain physical distancing while waiting for transport
- To always sit in pre-assigned seating and next to a sibling or child from their class group
- To use hand sanitiser on boarding the bus
- To observe respiratory etiquette at all times while waiting for and on-board transport services
- With the exception of those children who for medical or special educational needs reasons are not in a position to wear a face mask or face covering, all other students travelling on the school bus are required to wear face masks while waiting for and on-board the bus.

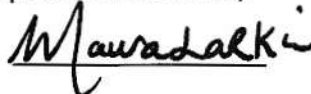
LEAVING THE SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE DAY

Students are asked to leave the school as quickly as possible and make their way to their bus or car and not to gather at the front of the school. Students walking home are asked to do so as quickly as possible once they exit the building.

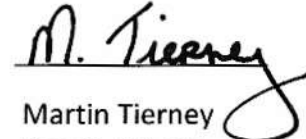
Looking forward to see you all in person next week,



Tom Crehan
Principal



Maura Larkin
Deputy Principal



Martin Tierney
Deputy Principal

COVID-19

Advice for parents



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Symptoms to look out for and when to contact your GP

Schools are back and the winter season is ahead of us. Every year, schoolchildren get colds, flu and other infections. This time, coronavirus (COVID-19) is with us.

Here is a guide on what symptoms to look out for and what to do if your child is unwell.

When to keep your child at home and phone your GP

Do not send your child to school or childcare 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

You will need to:

1. 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.
2. Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test.
3. 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.
4. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

When it's 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
- 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

Most of the time, you do not need to phone your GP if a runny nose or sneezing are your child's only symptoms. Talk to your pharmacist instead.

Preventing the spread of illness

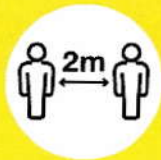
Help children to understand and to follow this advice:



Wash their hands regularly



Use tissues or elbows to cover their coughs and sneezes



Keep their distance from people who are sneezing or coughing



Don't share toys



Don't share food at lunch or other times

More information

Go to [hse.ie/coronavirus](https://www.hse.ie/coronavirus) for more information. This includes advice on the following:

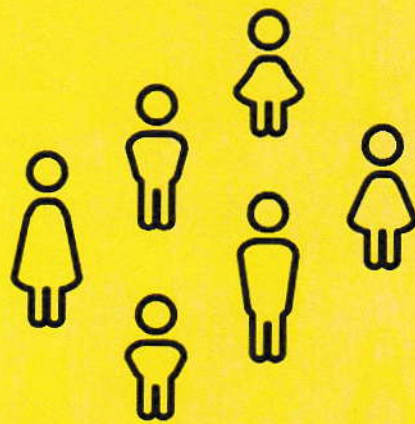
- protecting your child from coronavirus
- if your child has symptoms of coronavirus
- getting urgent medical advice if your child is very unwell
- children with underlying health conditions
- explaining coronavirus to your child
- how your child should wash their hands
- caring for a child isolating and self-isolation
- treating coronavirus symptoms at home
- bringing your child to a test centre and test results

Flu vaccine

This year, all children aged 2 to 12 years will be offered the children's nasal flu vaccine free of charge. See [hse.ie/flu](https://www.hse.ie/flu)

For updates visit

www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie



Published: August 2020