



Magherafelt Controlled Primary School  
32 Castledawson Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6PA

Tel: 028 7963 2822  
Fax: 028 7930 1957

*Principal:*  
Mr I Somerville B Ed Hons PQH(NI)

*Chairman Board of Governors:*  
Rev Dr J Curry

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Thursday 23 September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians,

I am writing this letter to inform you that there has been another confirmed positive case of Covid-19 in your child's P4/5 class.

Until Friday 10 September, I was responsible for contact tracing and assisting the PHA in identifying Covid-19 close contacts within our school. This is no longer the case. As I am sure you have seen in the news, the PHA are now solely responsible for identifying close contacts within schools. Therefore, the PHA will be in Contact with you if they have identified your child as a close contact.

Your child may still attend school as normal **unless the PHA have told you otherwise.**

You may reasonably wish to book a PCR test for your child before the PHA are in contact with you. If so, you can book a test at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

I would ask you to follow all the advice the PHA give to you. I would also request that you inform the school office on Monday morning if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been asked to self-isolate by the PHA and will therefore not be attending school.

I sincerely hope you all keep safe and well.

Please see the most up to date information from the PHA below.

Kind regards,

Ian Somerville  
Principal

## **CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOL SETTING – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF**

Where a case of confirmed COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been reported in a person with links to a school setting, all close contacts of the case who need to take specific actions with regard to testing and self-isolation will be identified, contacted and advised by the Public Health Agency (PHA) Contact Tracing Service.

If you are contacted by PHA Contact Tracing Service, please follow the guidance that they provide to you. Information on the latest self-isolation requirements can be found on NI Direct (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating>). **The advice on what to do if a close contact changed on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Please book a free PCR test, even if an earlier one was negative. Your child should stay at home and self-isolate until you receive the result.** Please see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): self-isolating | nidirect](#) for guidance on whether other people in your household also need to self-isolate while you are waiting for your child's PCR result.

Tests can be arranged at your closest testing site or by requesting a postal kit which will be sent to your home address. You can choose whichever option is more convenient for you. Going for a COVID test is one of the reasons your child can leave home during the self-isolation period, however, they should not use public transport. Please order a postal test if you do not have private transport to a test site.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- **Please get vaccinated if you are eligible and haven't already done so**
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### Further information

For further information, please see the NI Direct website [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): self-isolating | nidirect](#) the Public Health Agency website <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus> or contact NHS 111. If your child feels unwell and you are worried about their symptoms or about anyone else in the home, please contact your GP.