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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to thank you all for the support from the start of the year. I realise and understand things aren't easy however by working together we can do our best to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. In so doing please take the time to read through the following as it covers the changes in protocols.

Last week it was announced that changes have been made by the HSE to the Covid-19 testing and contact tracing system for primary school children. The changes come into effect today, Monday 27th September. Three points however still remain the same. A child is not to come to school when

- She is currently isolating because she was diagnosed with Covid-19.
- She has any symptoms of Covid-19.
- She is restricting her movements because an immediate family member (ie) a member of her household has tested positive for Covid-19.

What does this mean for your daughter?

- If your daughter **has symptoms** of Covid-19, she should **not** attend school. She should immediately self-isolate and you should contact your GP and/or arrange a test for Covid-19. **This advice has not changed.**
- If your daughter has been in close contact, in a **household setting**, with a confirmed case of Covid-19, she should **not** attend school. In this situation the HSE Contact Tracing Team will contact you. Your daughter will have to isolate and will have to go through the usual testing process through the HSE. **Household setting** means that someone has tested positive in the child's own household or in any household where she has spent the night. (For example, at a sleepover with friends or family.) Please follow all guidance as set out by the HSE.
- If your daughter has been in close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in an **educational or social setting**, she will no longer be identified as a close contact. She will not have to restrict her movements. She can **attend school** and a test will not be required. This means that children can no longer be identified as close contacts through attendance at school.

What does this mean for our school?

- All current infection prevention and control measures will remain in place in schools, according to the Department of Education. This means that we will continue with staggered start times, finish times, break times, pods and bubble structures etc.
- If your daughter is sent home with COVID 19 symptoms we ask that you contact your GP, seek their advice and when required make an appointment for a Covid-19 test.

If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Dearbhla White

Dearbhla White, Principal