Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Monday 15th November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to you to ask for your support in the coming days, weeks and months as we continue to live with COVID-19, but especially as we know that there is a large incidence of COVID positive cases Ireland.

We want to ask that you let us know **as soon as possible if you get a text message from the HSE** that your daughter or a family member tests positive for COVID-19 or is confirmed as a close contact. This will help us to keep everyone safe in our community.

If you or a family member are confirmed as COVID positive **via text message by the HSE** please do not wait for HSE Contact Tracing to contact either you or us. Please contact us as soon as you know this information by emailing reception@loretoclonmel.ie with a snap shot of the HSE text message. One of the COVID Team will be in touch as soon as possible.

We would like to remind you that if a family member, but especially a Loreto student, has any common symptoms of COVID-19 **that person should self-isolate** (stay in their room) and phone the family doctor straight away to see if you need a free COVID-19 test. Getting an early diagnosis means the person can get the help needed and if COVID-19 positive can take steps to avoid spreading the virus.

Our main message to you is:

If in doubt a student should stay at home until their parent/guardian speaks to a member of the COVID Team who can advise you on what your next steps might be.

Thank you in advance for supporting us as we endeavour to live safely with COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

Loreto's COVID TEAM: Anne Mc Grath, Sarah Rice, Aine Powell and Enya Bourke

HSE COVID-19 Health Protection Schools Response Team
(part of HSE's National COVID-19 Contact Management Programme)
has asked us to remind families of the following:

We are asking schools to please:

1. Remind all parents and staff to keep an eye on their health and to check for symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms of Covid-19 can include some or all of the following – fever (temperature of 38°C or higher), cough, shortness of breath, any loss or change to the senses of smell or taste, headache, sore throat, or a runny nose. If any pupil or member of staff develops these symptoms they must self-isolate and contact their GP for advice regarding a COVID-19 test.
2. Even with high population uptake of COVID-19 vaccination, it is important that you continue to support the pupils and staff of your school community during the COVID-19 pandemic in the effective manner you have been. It is important to reinforce to your school community that all

public health guidelines still need to be followed to protect the health of pupils and staff, these include:

- ✓ Wearing face coverings
- ✓ Cleaning hands regularly
- ✓ Maintaining physical distance from others
- ✓ Being mindful of the ventilation of classrooms by opening windows and doors as appropriate

3. Encourage all those who are eligible for vaccination within your school community to access appropriate information around this (available at https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/).

For those wishing to arrange vaccination, they can do so at either:
   a. Register using the HSE Vaccine portal (https://vaccine.hse.ie/#register)
   b. **OR** phone the HSE at 1800 700 700

What is the advice for close contacts who are fully-vaccinated against COVID-19?

Close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms are not required to restrict their movements. Close contacts will receive a text message with a link to a website where they provide their relevant details. When this has been done they will receive a text message with information about their antigen tests. Instructions of when and how to undertake the antigen tests are provided to those close contacts. If a fully vaccinated close contact has symptoms then they will be advised to self-isolate and booked for PCR testing.

When is a person considered to be fully-vaccinated?

   a) 7 days after receipt of the second Pfizer-BioNTech dose (two dose vaccination course)
   b) 15 days after receipt of the second AstraZeneca dose (two dose vaccination course)
   c) 14 days after receipt of the second Moderna dose (two dose vaccination course)
   d) 14 days after receipt of the first Johnson & Johnson vaccine (one dose vaccination course)

What is the advice for close contacts who are not fully-vaccinated against COVID-19?

- Close contacts who are not fully-vaccinated will need to go for two PCR tests for COVID-19, one as soon as possible and one on Day 10 after their last exposure to the COVID-19 case.
- They will need to restrict their movements (stay at home) until the Day 10 test has been done. This includes not attending work or school.
- If the Day 10 test result is "not detected" or negative, the pupil or staff member can return to school provided they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

What about the families of those who are close contacts?

Other people who live at home with the close contact do not need to restrict their movements, provided the close contact has no Covid symptoms. This means they can continue to attend school. If the close contact tests positive for COVID-19, the household will then need to restrict their movements.

What if a close contact declines the COVID-19 test?

Testing is not mandatory. But if a close contact does not have a Day 10 test done, this means they need to continue to restrict their movements for 14 days after their last contact with the person with COVID-19.

More information

Up to date information and advice on COVID-19 is available on hse.ie.
We thank you for your help and support as we continue to live with COVID-19.

HSE Advice
Further advice is available at this **link**