**Guidelines regarding Antigen Testing of Asymptomatic children in Primary School Pods where a confirmed case of Covid-19 is identified**

These measures were introduced on Monday 29th November 2021. Antigen testing will be provided to children who:

1. are part of a classroom pod, where there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 **and**
2. are asymptomatic (experiencing no symptoms)

It is very important to note that if your child has **ANY** of the following symptoms, **do not send them to school:**

* **A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more**
* **A new cough**
* **Loss or changed sense of taste or smell**
* **Shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse**
* **Fatigue**
* **Aches or pains**
* **Sore throat**
* **Headaches**
* **Diarrhoea**
* **Runny or stuffy nose**
* **Feeling sick or vomiting**

**Please contact the HSE to arrange a PCR test for your child if they are experiencing any of the above symptoms. Please note that if your child comes to school with any of the above symptoms, you will be contacted immediately to collect them.**

**Positive Case in Classroom Setting:**

If your child has a positive PCR Covid-19 test result, please contact the school immediately. The Principal will contact the parents / guardians of the children in the relevant pod, by phone, and invite them to request antigen tests for their child, if they wish to. The principal will not share any identifying details of the confirmed case. Parents of children in the class will receive an email informing them of the case.

The antigen testing programme is voluntary, so no records will be kept regarding the numbers of children doing antigen tests or their results.

If two or more positive Covid-19 cases arise in a class, within a 7 day period, outside of a single pod, antigen testing will be offered to the full class.

All information regarding how to request an antigen test will be provided to parents, where relevant.

**How Antigen Tests Can be Obtained:**

If parents wish to access free antigen tests, they will need to provide their name, home address and the school’s roll number when they call the HSE to arrange delivery. A box of 5 antigen tests will then be delivered to the address provided by the parents with instructions on how and when to do the tests. There is also a HSE video available online with instructions. Parents should carry out one antigen test on the day the tests arrive and then a second test two days later. The third test should be done two days later. In all 3 tests should be done, over 5 days, starting on the day the tests arrive.

A QR code will be provided to parents which will enable them to upload their test result, to inform the HSE, if they wish.

**It is important to note that all children in the pod can continue to attend school as long as they remain ASYMPTOMATIC. Children should NOT attend school if they have a positive PCR or antigen test result. If your child has a positive antigen test, you must arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.**

Participation in the programme is not mandatory and well children with **no** symptoms in the pod / class can continue to attend school regardless of whether or not they have participated in the antigen testing programme.

Parents / Guardians do not need to inform the school of the results of the antigen tests.

**It is really important to remember that if you have any of the symptoms outlined above, you should self-isolate at home and arrange a Covid-19 PCR test. Also please note that even if your child has a negative PCR result, but are experiencing respiratory symptoms, they should not go to school as they may spread other viral infections.**

**If a member of your household has a positive PCR result, all unvaccinated children younger than 13 years must restrict their movements and get a Covid-19 PCR test on day 0 and day 10. This is because the household remains the highest risk for transmission of Covid-19.**

An SNA or Teacher can also avail of the antigen testing, as they work closely with the children in the classroom. Antigen tests can be arranged in the same way as for parents. This is a voluntary measure and staff should continue to attend the workplace unless they develop symptoms or receive a positive antigen test result.