



17 August 2020

SAFETY AND HYGIENE PROTOCOLS IN SCHOOLS

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The Department of Education has today advised of some of the changes required from schools with regards to keeping school communities safe.

What's changing:

As of 17 August, some of the changes required from schools are:

- Vigilance in ensuring that staff and students do not attend school or work if they are unwell
- Students absent or sent home due to flu like symptoms need to be tested
- Staff and students must not return to school or work until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptoms free
- Schools must sight the negative COVID-19 test result prior to allowing students and staff to return to school
- Schools should limit activities to year groups whenever possible.

Parents/carers must be reminded regularly that students must not come to school if they are unwell. Even with very mild symptoms.

Teachers should be vigilant in recognising if any students are exhibiting flu like symptoms during teaching and learning activities. Where identified they must refer the student to the sick bay or other appropriate area where they can be isolated and the school must arrange for the parent or carer to take the student home.

If a student has been absent due to flu like illness or develops flu like symptoms while at school, they are not to return to school until they have a negative COVID-19 test and are symptoms free.

The negative COVID-19 test result must be sighted and received by the school for both students and staff members before their return to school.

Schools should encourage the immediate COVID-19 testing for any student or staff member identified as being unwell.

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate together during these uncertain times.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kathy Browne