Covid-19 Update for Parents: November 19th, 2021

The Department of Education has outlined how the new antigen testing scheme will operate in primary schools, with the scheme expected to start on or before the 29th of November.

Free antigen tests will be made available to the children in a primary school pod, where a child in the pod has had a PCR test that detected COVID-19. Where two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 occur in a class, within a seven-day period, outside of a single pod, antigen testing will be offered to the full class.

The Department has confirmed that the tests will be sent to the children's parents by the HSE.

Furthermore, according to the information sent to the school, parents of a primary school child, who has been confirmed as having COVID-19 following a PCR test, are asked to inform their school's principal. The school principal will then inform the parents of other children in the pod of a confirmed case. No personal details of the child will be shared. These parents will be provided with the option to receive free antigen tests for their child, which they will be able to order for delivery to their home.

If a child displays any symptoms of COVID-19 they should self-isolate immediately and a parent or guardian should arrange a PCR test.

