

Covid-19 Advice from Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tony Holohan, November 21 2021

If a child has a cold or flu symptoms isolate them immediately and get a PCR test, not an antigen test

1. The single most important thing you can do if you have symptoms is to self-isolate straight away and book a PCR test online or contact your GP.
2. If you get a PCR test result which does not detect COVID-19, you should still isolate until 48 hours after your symptoms have settled.
3. This can help you to avoid passing COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses on to other people.

Use the right test when symptoms appear
If you have symptoms of COVID-19 you should isolate and book a PCR test online or contact your GP. You should **NOT** take an antigen test; a 'negative' antigen test result does not mean that you don't have COVID-19 and you will still need to continue isolating and get a PCR test.

1. You should only consider using an antigen test if you have **NO** symptoms of the disease and only as a further additional tool, along with all of the other public health measures, to effectively combat COVID-19.
2. If this antigen test is 'positive' then you need to self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.
3. If the antigen test is 'negative', you may still have the virus, and, therefore, you should continue to adhere to all other public health measures.