



1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian

We have had a number of phone calls and messages seeking clarity as to whether a child should be sent to school, while exhibiting various symptoms. We totally understand your predicament and understand how difficult it is to make the right decision in these COVID 19 times. We appreciate that everyone wants to keep their children and all of the other members of our school community safe. With this in mind we felt it was important to send out the current guidance to help with your decision making process.

PHA / DE Guidance: A person/child should not come to school if they exhibit the following symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature/Fever
- Loss of taste/smell

However, we understand at the start of term that many children will pick up lots of colds, coughs, chest infections, sore throats, viral coughs, as part of the normal school season illnesses. The tricky part of this whole situation is that many of these illnesses have similar symptoms to COVID 19.

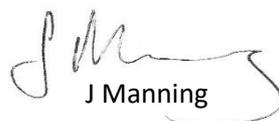


We would like to highlight a few things:

- We are not medical professionals and therefore, although we give advice, we can't give you a definitive answer about your child's symptoms and diagnosis.
- You know your own children and their normal, personal specific, daily symptoms e.g. hay fever, asthma, sinus issues etc. and therefore will be able to make an informed decision whether your child is exhibiting normal symptoms for them or new COVID 19 related symptoms.
- At the moment, we are erring on the side of caution and would ask you to do the same and therefore if your child is not well enough to come to school, keep them at home until their symptoms improve.
- PHA suggest to download the COVID symptom checker app called, COVID CARE NI. This app will allow you to input your child's symptoms and will give advice as to the most appropriate next steps.
- You may also contact your own GP, The Public Health Agency **03005550119**, EA COVID helpline **02838368186**.

Many thanks for your consideration in these matters.

Kind regards



J Manning