



# Scéal Oilibhéir

**Nuachtlitir 17-3-2022**

## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2022

Guím beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh! Bhí ceiliúradh den scoth againn i mbliana. Ar ghearrfhógra, d'éirigh linn an t-uafás a eagrú agus táim an-bhuíoch d'fhoireann na scoile, de Chumann na dTuismitheoirí agus de phobal uile na scoile. Idir theanga, cheol, chanadh, rince agus spórt d'éirigh linn an-chuid a dhéanamh! Bhain na páistí an-taitneamh as na himeachtaí éagsúla agus mhothaigh sé go raibh an scoil ar fad ar ais ar a seanléim den chéad uair le fada. Tá buíochas ar leith ag dul go John O'Brien, tuismitheoir a chaith an lá ar fad ag obair le gach rang sa scoil ar an gceol traidisiúnta. Bhí an t-ádh linn gur tháinig cúpla tuismitheoir críonna freisin chun cainteanna staire a thabhairt trí Ghaeilge. Tá an-chuid grianghraf ar *Twitter* agus ar shuíomh na scoile. Tá sé rithábachtach go leanaimid ar fad orainn anois leis an iarracht leis an nGaeilge. Tá sé seo thar a bheith tábhachtach ar maidin sa chlós agus moltar duit úsáid a bhaint as an nGaeilge atá agat.

*I wish all the blessings of St. Patrick's festival on you! We had a great celebration this year. At very short notice we managed to organise a huge amount and I am very grateful to the whole school staff, to the Parents' Association and to the whole school community. Between language, music, singing, dancing and sport we got a lot done! The children really enjoyed the various events and it felt as though Scoil Oilibhéir was back to its old self for the first time in a while. Special thanks to John O'Brien, a parent who spent the entire day working with every class on traditional music. We were fortunate to have some grandparents also who came to give history talks through Irish. There are a lot of photos on Twitter and on the website. It is really important that we continue with the effort with Irish. This is particularly important in the yard in the morning and you are encouraged to use whatever Irish you have.*

## Ceolfhoireann na nÓg Fhine Gall | Fingal Youth Orchestra

Tá baill nua á lorg ag Ceolfhoireann na nÓg Fhine Gall le tosú leo ó Mheán Fómhair 2022. Tá ceoltóirí óga ó 8 go 18, a bhfuil grád 1 bainte amach acu, á lorg do Cheolfhoireann na nÓg. Tá cuireadh do gach páiste a sheinneann uirlis ceol, go háirithe na téaduirlisí ísle, na cnaguirlisí agus na prásuirlisí. Bíonn deiseanna iontacha léirithe leis an gceolfhoireann chomh maith le spraoi, taitneamh agus caidrimh shóisialta. Má tá tuilleadh eolais uait, tabhair cuairt ar [www.fingalorchestra.ie](http://www.fingalorchestra.ie) nó cuir r-phost chuig [fingalorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:fingalorchestra@gmail.com).

*Fingal Youth Orchestra are looking for new members to start with them from September 2022. They are inviting young musicians from age 8 to 18 who are in grade 1 or above to join the Youth Orchestra. All children who play with a musical instrument, especially lower strings, percussion and brass are invited to join. The orchestra offers great opportunities for performance, as well as being great fun and an enjoyable social outlet for children. If you need any additional information, you can visit [www.fingalorchestra.ie](http://www.fingalorchestra.ie) or email [fingalorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:fingalorchestra@gmail.com)*

## Togra Tógála | Construction Project

Faoi dheireadh, beidh gás nádúrtha ag an scoil! Go dtí seo tá an scoil á téamh ó umar ola a bhíonn le líonadh gach coicís nó mar sin. Beidh an ceangal seo le líonra an gháis nádúrtha seo níos saoire, níos glaine, níos sábháilte agus níos praiticiúla don scoil. Tar éis an-chuid oibre ag leibhéal an Bhoird Bhainistíochta, tá tacaíocht na Roinne Oideachais faighte chun an obair seo a chur i gcrích. Déanfar athchóiriú ar an gcoire-theach mar chuid den tionscnamh agus clúdóidh deontas ón Roinn Oideachais an obair ar fad. Déanfar an obair le linn laethanta saoire na Cásca agus níltear ag súil leis go mbeidh aon tionchar ag an obair ar ghnáthshaol na scoile.

*At last, the school will have natural gas! Up until now, the school has been heated by an oil tank which needs to be filled every fortnight or so. This connection to the natural gas network will be cheaper, cleaner, safer and more practical for the school. After a lot of work at Board of Management level, support has been gained from the Department of Education to complete this work. The boiler house will be overhauled as part of the project and a grant from the Department of Education will cover the entire cost of the work. The work will be done during the Easter holidays and it is not envisaged that it will have any impact on the everyday life of the school.*

## Ráiteas um Chumhdach Leanaí | Child Safeguarding Statement

Tugtar faoi deara go ndearna an Bord Bainistíochta athbhreithniú, leasú agus faomhadh ar an Ráiteas um Chumhdach Leanaí ar an 28 Feabhra 2022. Tá an Mheasúnacht Riosca mar chuid de seo. Tá sé le fáil ag [an nasc seo](#)

*Please note that the Board of Management reviewed, amended and approved the Child Safeguarding Statement on 28 February 2022. The Risk Assessment is also part of this. It is available at [this link](#).*

### **Spórt sa Scoil | Sports in the school**

Tá ag éirí go hiontach le cúrsaí spóirt sa scoil faoi láthair. Le tacaíocht ó thuismitheoirí bhíomar in ann freastal ar Rás Trastíre le déanaí agus thugamar cúpla bonn abhaile. Níos tábhachtaí ná na boinn, bhí go leor páistí a thug faoin rith seo den chéad uair agus táthar ag súil leis go leanfaidh siad orthu sa spórt. Beidh tuilleadh imeachtaí rásaíochta amach anseo. Tá foirne peile na gcailíní agus na mbuachaillí tar éis dul ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile de Chumann na mBunscol. Go minic, bímid ag imirt in aghaidh scoileanna i bhfad níos mó ná sinn ach léiríonn na páistí sprid na scoile i gcónaí. Imríonn siad le fonn agus le fuinneamh agus arís, tá súil againn go leanfaidh siad ar aghaidh go fadtéarmach ag imirt le club áitiúil. Tá buíochas ar leith tuillte ag na Múinteoirí Colleen, Doireann, Gráinne, Kelsey, Pádhraic agus Shane a thugann suas a gcuid ama ag am lóin agus tar éis scoile chun an spórt a spreagadh. Tá an t-ádh linn go bhfuil foireann an-fhlaitiúil againn agus is mór againn é. Táimid buíoch de na tuistí a bhíonn ar fáil chun tacú le síobanna freisin. Fuair Rang a Sé na boinn tar éis dóibh an clár *MarathonKids* a chríochnú faoi stiúir Múinteoir Áine, comhghairdeas leo.

*Sport is going brilliantly at the moment in the school. With support from parents we were able to attend a Cross Country race recently and we took home a couple of medals. More important than the medals, many children were giving this race a go for the first time and it is hoped they will continue in the sport. There will be more racing events in the future. The girls' and boys' football teams have gone on to the next round of the Cumann na mBunscol competition. Often, we are playing much larger schools than us and the children always exhibit real school spirit. They play with zest and again, I hope they continue to play long term with a local club. A special thanks to teachers Colleen, Doireann, Gráinne, Kelsey, Pádhraic and Shane who give up their own time at lunch time and after school to encourage the sport. We are very fortunate to have such generous staff and we appreciate it. We are also very grateful to the parents who make themselves available with lifts etc. Sixth Class go their medals after finishing the MarathonKids programme under the guidance of Múinteoir Áine, congrats to them.*

### **Rásaí na Féile Pádraig | St. Patrick's Festival Races**

Féachaigí ag an nasc thíos eolas faoi rásaí atá á réachtáil ag club lúthchleasaíochta MSB mar chuid de cheiliúradh na féile Pádraig

<https://msbac.ie/msb-st-patricks-weekend-race/>

*Please see at link above information about a races being organised by MSB Athletics Club as part of the St. Patrick's Festival celebrations*

### **Rith Urraithe | Sponsored Run**

Bhí an Rith Urraithe ar siúl inné, an Chéadaoin, 16 Márta. Rachaidh an t-airgead i gcabhair ar an oispis agus chun trealamh spóirt a fháil don scoil. Chuaigh cárta urraíochta abhaile le gach páiste agus tá sé seo le filleadh ar an scoil roimh an Luan seo, 21 Márta, fiú mura bhfuil aon airgead air. Beidh crannchur againn d'éinne atá tar éis an cárta a chur ar ais roimhe sin. Tá cúpla duais dheas tugtha ag Cumann na dTuismitheoirí. Bhí ócáid den scoth againn agus tá an-chreidiúint ag dul do Mhúinteoirí Gráinne agus Lára as á e eagrú,. Rinne Anna go leor oibre le cabhrú leis an lá freisin. Bhí na páistí go hiontach agus fuaireamar tacaíocht dhochreidte ó thuistí/chaomhnóirí na scoile. Míle buíochas.

*The Sponsored Walk was on yesterday, Wednesday, 16 March. The money raised will go to the Hospice and towards sports equipment for the school. A sponsorship card went home with every child and it will need to be returned to the school by Monday 21 March even if there is no money on it. We will have a raffle for anybody who has returned the card by then. Our Parents' Association have given a couple of nice prizes. We had a really fabulous occasion and huge credit goes to Múinteoirí Gráinne and Lára for organising it. Anna did a lot of work to assist the day also. The children were amazing and we got incredible support from the parents/guardians of the school. Many thanks.*

### **Cumann na dTuismitheoirí | Parents' Association**

Bhí Tráth na gGeist den chéad scoth againn sa *Clonsilla Inn* an Déardaoin seo caite agus bhíomar thar a bheith sásta leis an tinreamh nuair a chuirtear san áireamh nach raibh mórán ama againn chun é a eagrú. Éacht déanta ag Cumann na dTuismitheoirí s'againne. Gabhaimid buíochas le gach duine a thacaigh leis agus a d'iompigh suas. D'eagraigh Cumann na dTuismitheoirí cupán sa chlós freisin coicís ó shin agus bhí sé go hálainn gach duine a fheiceáil sa chlós arís. Beidh cathaoirleach nua ag teastáil don Chumann don bhliain seo chugainn. Beidh tacaíocht ar fáil ó dhaoine a bhfuil taithí acu ach tá obair na gcapall déanta ag na daoine atá ann le tamall de bhlianta anuas agus ba cheart an obair seo a roinnt. Déan teagmháil liom le do thoil dá mba mhaith leat ról gníomhach a ghlacadh i gCumann na dTuismitheoirí.

*We had a fantastic Table Quiz in the Clonsilla Inn last Thursday and we were delighted with the attendance when it's taken into account that we had very little time to organise it. A huge achievement from our Parents' Association. We extend our gratitude to everyone who supported and turned up on the night. The Parents' Association also organised a cuppa in the yard a fortnight ago and it was lovely to see everyone on the yard again.*

*A new chairperson will be needed for the Association for next year. There will be support available from people with experience but those who have been there for the last number of years have done Trojan work and this work should be shared. Due to COVID, the school community has missed out a lot on the social side of things and we would love to reinvigorate this important aspect of the school culture again. Please get in touch if you would like to take an active role in our Parents' Association.*

## Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

### SABHÁILTEACHT SAN ASCAILL | SAFETY IN THE AVENUE

Agus gach duine ag teacht ar scoil le chéile arís ar maidin (buíochas le Dia!) tá sé in am meabhrú dúinn féinn faoi chúrsaí sábháilteachta. Scaip an t-eolas seo le do thoil ar éinne a thagann ar scoil le/do do pháiste.

*As everyone is (thankfully!) coming to school together again, it's time to remind ourselves about safety. Please share this information with anyone who comes to the school with/for your child*

- **Tiomáin go han-mhall agus go cúramach san ascaill**
  - *Drive very slowly and carefully in the avenue*
- **Déan cinnte nach dtéann do pháiste ar an mbóthar san ascaill**
  - *Please ensure your child doesn't go on the road in the avenue*
- **Léirigh meas agus foighne ar thiománaithe eile**
  - *Show respect and patience for other drivers*
- **Páirceáil idir na línte**
  - *Park between the lines*
- **Bain úsáid as Carrchlós na Milaoise - 2 nóiméad siúil agus i bhfad níos sábháilte agus níos éasca |**
  - *Use Millennium Carpark - 2 minutes walk, much safer and easier*

## Sacraimintí | Sacraments

### Cóineartú | Confirmation

Bhí ócáid álainn ag Rang a Sé an Mháirt seo caite sa séipéal do Shearmanas an tSolais. Bhí na páistí go hiontach agus ba léir go bhfuil an-chuid oibre agus ullmhúcháin déanta ag Múinteoir Áine leo. Táimid ag súil leis na hullmhúcháin eile idir seo agus Lá an Chóineartaithe féin. Bhí sé go deas an tAth. Dan Joe a fheiceáil arís agus bhuaileamar leis an sagart paróiste nua, an tAth. Michael Carey. Bhí Máirín sa pharóiste chomh cabhrach is a bhí riamh!

*6<sup>th</sup> Class had a beautiful occasion last Tuesday in the church for their Ceremony of Light. The children were wonderful and it was obvious that Múinteoir Áine has done a lot of work and preparation with them. We look forward to the rest of the preparation between now and the Confirmation Day itself. It was lovely to see Fr. Dan Joe again and we also met the new parish priest, Fr. Michael Carey. Máirín in the parish was her usual helpful self!*

### Chéad Fhaoistin sa scoil | First Confession in school

Beidh an Chéad Fhaoistin ar siúl anois **sa scoil ar an Máirt, 22 Márta** - mar atá déanta againn le cúpla bliain anuas, ní bheidh ach na páistí i láthair agus tarlóidh sé le linn uaireanta scoile. Tá feicthe againn le cúpla bliain anuas go mbaineann sé seo aon strus ón ócáid.

*The First Confession will be on **in the school on Tuesday 22 March** - as we have done for the past number of years, only the children will be present and it will happen during school hours. We have seen over the last few years that this takes any of the stress away from the occasion.*

### Tuáille Láimhe | Hand Towels

Géarghá le smaoineamh ar an tuáille láimhe a chur isteach le do pháiste!  
*Essential to remember to send a hand towel in with your child!*

## **Liosta na nUrraitheoirí don Tráth na gCeist** | *List of Sponsors for Table Quiz*

Míle buíochas leis na hurraitheoirí seo thíos a thacaigh le Tráth na gCeist na scoile i mbliana. Tugaimis tacaíocht dóibh más féidir agus má tá tú chun seribhisí nó earraí a cheannach uathu ba mhór an chabhair dúinne é amach anseo dá luafá Scoil Oilibhéir agus go bhfuil tú ag dul chucu de bharr na tacaíochta a thugann siad dúinn!

*Many thanks to these sponsors attached who supported the school table quiz this year. Let's support them if we can and if you do buy goods or services from them it would be a big help to us in the future to mention Scoil Oilibhéir and that you are going to them because of the support they give us!*

Parents of the School

Phi Me.ie

Pitta Pit

Clonsilla Pharmacy

Beauty@96

Boots

Lullymore Farm

Awesome Walls

Clonfert Pet Farm

CT2 Suits

Aldi

Big Bang Comics

Dublin Meat Factory

12<sup>th</sup> Lock / Browns Restaurant

SNC Pilates

Twinkle Nails

Slí Dhála CCE

Leddy's Uniforms

Blanchardstown Credit Union

Gaelchultúr

Bathroom Design

Ship Shape Kids Play

Lisa's Barber Shop

Celine Salmon Make Up

Blue Elephant Restaurant

Clonsilla Inn

New Era Coaching

The Fixing Company

Parts for Cars

Coolmine Carpets

Crown Decorating Centre

Des Kelly

Dunne's Ongar

Airfield Estate

Ger Conroy Fitness

JN Wine Company

Pet Store Depot

Banbha Irish Dance School

Féach thíos an treoir is déanaí (10.3.2022) maidir le cúrsaí COVID. Tá sé le fail [anseo](#) freisin  
Please see below the most recent (10.3.2022) advice regarding COVID. Also available [here](#)

*Readers should not rely solely on the information contained within these guidelines. Guidance information is not intended to be a substitute for advice from other relevant sources including, but not limited to, the advice from a health professional. Clinical judgement and discretion will be required in the interpretation and application of this guidance.*

***This guidance has been developed based on recent advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) and government. This guidance is under constant review based upon emerging evidence at national and international levels and national policy decisions.***

**Please note this guidance does not apply to patients and residents in congregated healthcare settings including acute hospitals and residential care facilities. This guidance can be found at [acute hospitals](#) and [residential care facilities](#).**

**For occupational health guidance, please see [here](#).**

*Please note this guidance replaces National Interim Guidelines for Public Health management of COVID-19 cases and contacts. V11.6. 14/02/2022. This document is uncontrolled when printed.*

#### Version History

Version	Date	Update	Completed by
1.1	10/03/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update to Section 6.0 regarding symptoms in children</li></ul>	Research and Guidance Unit
1.0	25/02/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updated version of Contact Tracing guidance</li></ul>	Research and Guidance Unit

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## 1.0 Introduction

Following a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) advised that the prevailing profile of the disease in Ireland and the available evidence and experience of Omicron internationally allowed for a fundamental change in the management of COVID-19. The NPHE advised that this should entail a transition, in broad terms, from a focus on regulation and population wide restrictions to a focus on **public health advice, personal judgement and personal protective behaviours**. Specifically, following that meeting, the NPHE advised that there was no longer a continuing public health rationale for the majority of the public health measures that were in place at that time. It therefore advised that a range measures could be removed, with a small number of mandatory requirements remaining in place. This was agreed by Government and implemented on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, please see [here](#) for more information.

The NPHE on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 considered these remaining requirements and concluded that there is no longer a continuing public health rationale for retaining them and advised that the measures as outlined in this document could be removed with effect from the **28th February**. There is, however, a continuing requirement for clear public health advice and for targeted public health action to manage COVID-19 related risks.

## 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to meet the need referred to above for public health advice for the management of COVID-19 cases and contacts.

## 3.0 Information on COVID-19

COVID-19 is an illness, identified in late 2019, caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Internationally and in Ireland we continue to learn about how easily the virus spreads from person to person and how to control it.

Effective vaccines against COVID-19 are available and a robust vaccination programme has been implemented in Ireland. Viruses constantly change and mutate due to evolution and adaptation processes. As a consequence, the emergence of new variants is to be expected.

The available evidence at this time regarding real world vaccine effectiveness and duration of protection shows that all vaccines authorised in the EU/EEA are currently highly protective against hospitalisation, severe disease and death for a variety of strains of COVID-19 (1). This does **not** mean that individuals are immune from SARS-CoV-2 infection



once vaccinated. People who are vaccinated may still be able to transmit SARS-CoV-2 infection to susceptible contacts (2). Definitions of the primary vaccination schedule, booster vaccines and additional vaccination doses are displayed in [Appendix 1](#).

A [letter](#) from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 stated:

*“that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, levels of infection remain high, a cohort of the population still remain vulnerable to more severe infection and the emergence of new variants with increased levels of transmissibility, immune escape and/or virulence remains a risk both nationally and globally. For these reasons, it is outlined that the following must remain critical components of our collective response and ongoing communication in relation to COVID-19 and all will need to be retained and reviewed on a periodic basis.*

- *Clear guidance and communication with the public on the evolving disease profile and a cultural shift towards embedding individual and collective personal behaviours to mitigate against COVID19 and other respiratory infections;*
- *A renewed and sustained focus on the importance of rapid self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or if diagnosed with COVID-19;*
- *Continued promotion of vaccination against COVID-19 in line with evolving national strategy and seasonal influenza vaccination;*
- *Continued wearing of masks, practicing of physical distancing and avoidance of crowded environments based on individual risk assessment and with a continuing focus on protecting others, and adherence to basic hand and respiratory hygiene;*
- *Sector specific measures, based on risk assessments by individual sectors, to ensure a safe environment including in relation to the promotion of rapid self-isolation when symptomatic, hand and respiratory hygiene, ventilation, signage, and use of face masks and physical distancing if appropriate;*
- *Continuing engagement with and support for global vaccination and surveillance initiatives;*
- *The impact of the pandemic on the health system has been significant. It is important that a continued focus on health service resilience is maintained, including in particular:*
  - *ongoing strengthening of health system capacity across the spectrum of public health and community and hospital services, to ensure the system is adequately prepared for future challenges. This includes critical care and isolation capacities, and the continuation of appropriate support for non-COVID care in a COVID environment.*
  - *a continued focus on infection prevention and control measures in healthcare settings, including appropriate mask wearing and physical distancing requirements based on national guidance and local risk assessment and advice from IPC teams, given the ongoing requirement to provide care for both COVID and non-COVID patients and the need to protect both patients and staff”.*

## 4.0 Public Health Protective Measures

Following Government decision, from 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the following public health measures will **NO LONGER APPLY**

1. **Mandatory** mask wearing in settings where it is currently regulated for, including: public transport, taxis, retail and other indoor public settings, and staff in hospitality settings.
2. **Public health measures** in early learning settings, school-aged childcare, primary and secondary schools. These measures include physical distancing measures such as pods, and mask wearing. It is recognised that there will be some children who will wish to continue wearing masks. It is important that any child who wishes to wear a mask should not be discouraged.

However, the following is **STILL ADVISED**:

- continued wearing of masks, adherence to basic hand and respiratory hygiene, practicing of physical distancing and avoidance of crowded poorly ventilated environments based on individual risk assessment with a continuing focus on protecting others.
- the continuation of **mask wearing on public transport**. This is a setting where physical distancing can be difficult and where those who are more vulnerable to the severe impacts of COVID-19 do not always have a discretion to avoid.
- the continued adherence to infection, prevention and controls measures including **mask wearing in healthcare settings** in line with evolving national guidance.
- the continuation of **public health measures including hand and respiratory hygiene, ventilation, advice to stay home if symptomatic, and maintenance of good basic cleaning schedules to reduce the risk of spread of all infections, in all settings including** in early learning settings, school-aged childcare, primary and secondary schools. These measures are important for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 but also for mitigating the spread of other viral infections.
- everyone is encouraged and supported to complete their **primary and booster programmes of vaccination**.
- Government also indicated on 22/02/22 that, *“during this transition phase, the current arrangements in place in respect of the schools’, early learning and school-aged care facilities antigen testing programmes will also continue”*.

## 5.0 Confirmed cases (either by Rapid Antigen Detection Tests or by RTPCR)

- **All confirmed cases should self-isolate for 7 full days** from date of onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic, from the date of a positive test result (either a Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADTs) or RT-PCR test). **On receipt of a positive test result, no further testing is required.**



- **Any individual with a positive RADT should regard it as confirmed COVID-19 and [register it with the HSE](#). A confirmatory PCR test is not required.** This individual should now be managed as a case and continue to [self-isolate](#) from the date of onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic, from the time of the positive test result.
- Confirmed cases can exit self-isolation after 7 full days, once symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final 2 days (48 hours) of the self-isolation period.
- On exiting self-isolation after **7 full days**, cases\* should continue to adhere to the following public health protective measures until day 10
  - wear an FFP2 mask or medical grade face mask (surgical mask) in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people
  - limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces (**excluding childcare and educational settings**)
  - avoid contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
  - work from home unless it is essential to attend in person
  - follow all public health protective measures

*\*Please note children can exit self-isolation after 7 full days and return to childcare and educational settings, once symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final 2 days (48 hours) of the self-isolation period.*

- Cases should advise all of their household contacts to be vigilant for symptoms and that if symptoms develop they should self-isolate.
- **Cases should advise specific groups of household contacts as follows:**
  - household contacts that have an underlying condition associated with very high risk or high risk of severe COVID-19 disease, should be extra vigilant in relation to symptom development and if they develop **any** symptoms, they should get PCR tested as soon as possible, as anti-viral treatment may be indicated. Please see NIAC Immunisation Guidelines on COVID-19 vaccine Chapter 5a. Table 5a.2: [Underlying conditions associated with very high risk or high risk of severe COVID-19 disease](#).
  - Asymptomatic household contacts that are **Healthcare Workers** do not need to restrict their movements, but must undertake **3 RADTs** over a 7-day period, (the first RADT should be performed as soon as possible, the second 3 days later and the final test on the 7<sup>th</sup> day). **The requirement for testing does not apply if the healthcare worker has recovered from COVID-19 in the previous three months.**
- All individuals aged over 12 years old with a positive COVID-19 test result should use a wellfitted medical grade (surgical) or FFP2 face mask for 10 full days except when they are alone in a room or alone outdoors. Children aged 9-12 years old should wear a well fitted mask<sup>1</sup> as much as is reasonably practical during the 10-day period.
- For confirmed cases in healthcare workers, please see [here](#) for further information.

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<sup>1</sup> A medical grade mask (surgical mask) is preferable, if it fits the child well; otherwise a well-fitting cloth mask can be worn. For further information please see [here](#)

## 6.0 Symptomatic individuals

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or other viral respiratory tract infection, regardless of vaccination status, should immediately self-isolate until 48 hours after symptoms have substantially or fully resolved. *Please note children can have persistent minor symptoms e.g. a cough. However, if all new or acute symptoms have substantially or fully resolved, children can return to school or crèche. If their condition significantly deteriorates, please contact your GP for further advice.*
- Public health indications for testing will differ between those at high risk of severe disease who may benefit from early detection or treatment, and other groups/people. However, based on a clinical risk assessment, and clinical judgement, testing may be appropriately requested in certain situations.
- **Testing will no longer be needed for clinical or public health purposes for otherwise healthy people with symptoms, with the exclusion of the following, for whom PCR testing is recommended** (through the [HSE portal](#))
  - Those who have not had booster vaccination and are aged 55 years and older
  - Those with a high-risk medical condition<sup>2</sup>
  - Those who are immunocompromised
    - Those who live in the same household as a person who is immunocompromised
    - Those who provide care or support for person they know to be immunocompromised
    - Those who are pregnant
    - Healthcare Workers
- All **symptomatic individuals** should use a well-fitted medical grade (surgical) or FFP2 face mask. Children aged 9-12 years old should wear a well fitted mask<sup>3</sup> as frequently as is reasonably practical.
- If a child aged less than 3 months is symptomatic, contact your GP for advice.
- For advice for symptomatic healthcare workers, please see [here](#) for further information.

## 7.0 Asymptomatic close contacts

- Asymptomatic close contacts **do not need to restrict movements, regardless of vaccination status.**
- If they develop symptoms, they should **self-isolate until 48hrs after the symptoms have fully or substantially resolved.**
- Asymptomatic individuals, including close contacts, other than healthcare workers who are household close contacts, **do not need PCR or Rapid Antigen Detection Testing (RADTs).**
- Healthcare workers, identified as **household close contacts**, do not need to restrict movements but must undertake 3 RADTs over a 7-day period, (the first RADT should be performed as soon as possible, the second 3 days later and the final test on the 7<sup>th</sup> day). **The requirement for testing does not apply if they have recovered from COVID-19 in the previous three months.**
- Any asymptomatic individual who has a positive RADT result should consider this result definitive and self-isolate.

<sup>2</sup> For a list of high risk medical conditions and those who are immunocompromised, please see NIAC Immunisation Guidelines on COVID19 vaccine Chapter 5a. Table 5a.2: [Underlying conditions associated with very high risk or high risk of severe COVID-19 disease.](#)

<sup>3</sup> A medical grade mask (surgical mask) is preferable, if it fits the child well; otherwise a well-fitting cloth mask can be worn.

## 8.0 References

- (1) ECDC 'Interim public health considerations for the provision of additional COVID-19 vaccine doses' [Internet]. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. 2021 [cited 2021 Nov 11]. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/covid-19-publichealth-considerations-additional-vaccine-doses>
- (2) ECDC Technical Report 'Risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from newly infected individuals with documented previous infection or vaccination' [Internet]. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. 2021 [cited 2022 Jan 12]. Available at: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/sars-cov-2-transmission-newly-infectedindividuals-previous-infection>
- (3) National Advisory Immunisation Committee (NIAC) 'Chapter 5a – COVID-19' [Internet]. National Advisory Immunisation Committee. 2022 [cited 2022 Feb 28]. Available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/covid19.pdf>
- (4) World Health Organisation. 'Interim statement on booster doses for COVID-19 vaccination' [Internet] World Health Organisation 2021 [cited 2021 Nov 11]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news/item/04-10-2021-interim-statement-on-booster-doses-for-covid19-vaccination>

## 9.0 Appendix 1

**An additional vaccination dose** may be needed as part of an extended primary series for targeted populations where the immune response rate following the standard primary series is deemed insufficient. The objective of an additional dose in the primary series is to optimise and enhance the immune response to establish a sufficient level of effectiveness against disease. (4).

**Booster doses** are administered to a vaccinated population that has completed a primary vaccination series (currently one or two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, depending on the product), when with time the immunity and protection has fallen below a rate deemed sufficient in that population (4) The objective of a booster dose is to restore vaccine effectiveness from that deemed no longer sufficient.

### Primary vaccination schedule definition

A list of authorised and recommended vaccines can be found [here](#).

Ideally the same vaccine should preferably be used for both doses of a primary vaccination course, however, in some instances a heterologous vaccination schedule can be delivered. Heterologous COVID-19 vaccination means getting two different COVID-19 vaccines e.g., getting the Vaxzevria® vaccine for the first dose followed by an mRNA vaccine Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) or Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) for the second dose. In these circumstances, these individuals are also considered to have completed their primary vaccination schedule after their second dose (7 days after Comirnaty® and 14 days after Spikevax®).

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) advises that individuals may be offered an additional vaccine dose in addition to their primary vaccination course because evidence suggests that those who are severely immunocompromised<sup>4</sup> do not have adequate protection following a primary COVID-19 vaccine course. This additional vaccine dose enhances their protection; however, if the person's immune system response to vaccination could be compromised due to either of the following conditions:

- i. a transplant (solid organ, bone marrow, haematopoietic stem cell) in the past 12 months
- ii. systemic cytotoxic chemotherapy or other systemic cancer chemotherapy in the past 12 months.

A booster dose may also be offered to a vaccinated population that has completed a primary vaccination series, when with time, the immunity and clinical protection has fallen below a rate deemed sufficient for that population (3)

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<sup>4</sup> An additional mRNA vaccine dose should be given to those aged 12 and older who are immunocompromised, associated with a suboptimal response to vaccines who have completed their primary course, regardless of whether the primary course was an mRNA or an adenoviral vector vaccine. This is an extended primary vaccination course. The additional vaccine should be given after a minimum interval of two months following the last dose of an authorised COVID-19 vaccine