



Covid-19 Checklist for ELC/SAC Providers

What do I do if a child or staff member in my service has symptoms?

Advise the parent to keep the child at home/Advise the staff member to stay at home. They should self-isolate and follow HSE guidance in relation to testing. https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/get-tested/	
If they become unwell in the setting, bring them to the isolation space and arrange for them to be collected or to go home.	
Clean any rooms they were in while they were unwell.	
There is no need to close the pod or inform other parents.	
A test is arranged with their GP or HSE. The GP out-of-hours service can be found on https://www2.hse.ie/services/find-a-gp-out-of-hours/	
If covid-19 is not detected return to the service can occur when GP advises or when symptoms free.	
You should have a supply of surgical and respirator masks available for use if someone has symptoms. Staff members caring for a sick child who is thought to have COVID-19 should wear a surgical or respirator mask. These masks are now recommended in general over face coverings.	

What do I do if a child or staff member in my service is a confirmed case?

Advise the parent to keep the child at home/Advise the staff member to stay at home.	
Carry out cleaning and disinfection of all the areas they were in contact with.	
Inform staff and parents of the other children in the pod that there has been a case, and provide information on how they can request antigen tests for their child, should they wish to do so. (See further information below) Inform parents of children under 4 years in pod/room of a confirmed case in line with setting policy.	
If there are adult close contacts in your service the HSE will follow up through normal processes. They should take the appropriate action that matches their situation vis-à-vis vaccinations and boosters: https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/close-contact/	

<p>Child close contacts do not need to restrict their movements or get a PCR test unless told to by the HSE or they have symptoms of COVID-19. They can attend childcare as normal.</p> <p>https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/if-your-child-is-a-close-contact/</p>	
<p>Inform Tusla by emailing them using the notification form.</p> <p>https://first5.gov.ie/userfiles/files/download/34aafd6eea430a67.pdf</p>	
<p>Contact your local CCC for further advice and support if required. CCC contact details are on www.myccc.ie. The National Covid-19 Out of Hours helpline is 1800 940341</p>	

Useful Links and further information

Guidance on the First 5 website, including tip sheets for providers, childminders and parents

<https://first5.gov.ie/guidance>

The comprehensive HPSC guidance for the sector

<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/childcareguidance/>

Isolation quick guide for children and adults available here <https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20Adults%20and%20children%20from%20their%2013th%20birthday.pdf>

Guidance on Antigen testing in ELC

A setting should inform parents of a positive case in children 4 years and older to enable them to access the antigen programme. A child can do antigen tests if they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in their pod or have 2 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in their group or room in different pods within a 7-day period (antigen testing is voluntary).

As many ELC settings have mixed age play-pod/rooms it is appropriate to operate one policy across the setting in relation to informing parents of an identified positive case, regardless of eligibility for the antigen programme.

It is important to note that informing parents should be underpinned by the principle of respecting the right to privacy of individual children and families.

In addition, information provided as part of the antigen programme provide next step advice to parents. Therefore, when contacting any parent to inform them of a positive case the setting should remind them to follow advice available on the HSE and HPSC websites.