

Childminders Suspected or Confirmed Cases of Covid-19

Common Symptoms of COVID-19:

Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, sudden loss of sense of taste/smell.

Symptoms in children also include:

Runny Nose*, Sore Throat, Diarrhoea and Vomiting.

*A child with nasal cold symptoms (runny nose or sneezing) can continue to attend their ELC/SAC setting, provided:

- The child is otherwise well and active,
- The child has no new cough or temperature, and
- There is no other person in the child's household who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 and no one in the household has been referred for testing for COVID-19.

HPSC guidance should be followed regarding attendance at the service

- Childminders who are unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 should not operate.
- A child with symptoms of a viral respiratory infection should not attend
- If someone in a child's household is a confirmed case of COVID-19 or someone in the household has been referred for testing the child should not attend
- If a member of a Childminders household has been referred for testing, is a confirmed case or has been identified as a close contact, the Childminding Service should not operate
- A child who has been advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements should not attend until advised by public health that they may do so
- If a Childminder or a child is identified as a close contact of someone who has COVID-19 they should not attend until advised by public health that they may do so

Note. In relation to a person who has been referred for testing the child may be able to return to childcare if the test on the person or persons in the house is reported as not detected. The duration of exclusion of a child with a viral respiratory tract infection should be at a minimum until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved but will be at least 10 days with the last five being fever free if they are tested and are positive for COVID-19

Examples

(other scenarios can apply)

Symptomatic child: Fiona's Childminding Service:

Fiona is minding 4 children - a baby, a toddler, and two afterschool children. In the afternoon Fiona notices one of the children had developed a new cough, a symptom of Covid-19 in children. In line with HPSC guidance, Fiona put on her mask and distanced the child from the other children. She then contacted her emergency back-up person to care for the children, while she cared for the symptomatic child. Fiona contacted the child's parent and arranged immediate collection of the child and advised them to contact their GP for advice. The areas of the home the child had access to were cleaned and disinfected after the child left. The Childminder followed their plan and did not close the service. While waiting for the test results the child did not attend the service. Following a negative test result and a declaration by the child's parents that they have followed medical advice, the child returned to the service.

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Cases in Childminders Home

If the Childminder or a child has symptoms of COVID-19 while in a service:

- The Childminder should have a small supply of surgical masks in a readily accessible place for use by them if someone develops symptoms of COVID-19.
- The Childminder should contact their emergency backup person and parents of the unwell child.
- The Childminder should distance themselves or the child from the other children until the emergency backup person arrives.
- The Childminder should remove themselves or take the child to a designated area where the child can be isolated and attended to and stay with the child until the parent arrives.
- The emergency backup person should stay with the remaining children until their parents collect them.
- In an emergency, the Childminder should call the ambulance, and explain that the child is unwell with symptoms of COVID-19.
- The room will be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected once they leave.
- If the affected person needs to use the bathroom whilst waiting for medical assistance, they will use a separate bathroom if available and it will be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected before use by others.

Examples

(other scenarios can apply)

Confirmed cases in a Childminding Setting: Bright Bubbles Childminding Service:

Mary is a Childminder caring for 5 school age children. Mary's adult son Tom was contacted by HSE Public Health staff to advise him to arrange a Covid-19 test having been in close contact with a confirmed case. Mary closed her Childminding Service in line with her Covid-19 Infection Control Policy. Bright Bubbles childminding service remained closed for 14 days following HPSC guidance.



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Remember:

- Adults with symptoms or adults who need to care for a symptomatic child awaiting collection should keep as much distance as they can in the context of meeting the child's needs, be careful with respect to hand hygiene, avoid touching their face and wear a surgical mask, if possible. If a mask is not practical a visor may be suitable.
- In an emergency, call an ambulance

Confirmed COVID-19 cases should self-isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days with the last five being fever free and should not return to the childcare setting until they are advised that it is safe to do so.

A medical or doctor's cert is not required in order for a child to return to a setting. A verbal or written declaration from a parent will suffice. See sample declaration at Appendix 1 of the HPSC Guidance.

Close contacts of a confirmed case should restrict their movements for 14 days. They should not attend the childcare facility during that time.

If a child with COVID-19 cannot be isolated at home and there is an ongoing exposure risk, household contacts should restrict movements for 17 days from the onset of symptoms in the case (or date of test if the confirmed case was asymptomatic).

- All services are advised to contact their local CCC for support in both suspected and confirmed cases.
- In a confirmed case, local public health will contact the service provider and will advise on next steps.
- Childminders should have an electronic copy of contact details for all children to hand in case public health require it. This should include name, address, DOB, contact name and number for parents/guardians.
- Registered Childminders are required to notify Tusla within three working days of all confirmed cases.

