

Dear Parent,

As you may be aware, Ireland has now had its first confirmed case of COVID-19. The Department of Health state that the risk of catching coronavirus in Ireland is still low. However this may change.

### **Who is at risk?**

Anyone who knows they have been in close contact with a confirmed case in the last 14 days and has symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fever)

Anyone who has been to one of the affected areas in the last 14 days and has symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fever) (see [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) for list of affected areas)

### **Symptoms of coronavirus:**

It can take up to 14 days for symptoms of coronavirus to appear.

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- shortness of breath
- breathing difficulties
- fever (high temperature)

**In the interest of infection control, and in an effort to protect our service users it is vitally important that our service users do not attend services if they are 'at risk' as outlined above.**

**In home and community based services will be suspended for the duration of the 14 day isolation period. Re-commencement of services can be discussed with your local office.**

**If you suspect you may have Covid-19 please make contact with your local centre and make them aware of the situation.**

If someone is 'at risk' they should:

- isolate themselves from other people - this means going into a different, well-ventilated room, with a phone
- phone their GP, or emergency department - if this is not possible, phone [112](tel:112) or [999](tel:999)
- in a medical emergency (if you have severe symptoms) phone [112](tel:112) or [999](tel:999)

Close contact means either:

- face-to-face contact
- spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of an infected person
- living in the same house as an infected person

Further information and ongoing updates are available on the HSE website [ww.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) and see attached HSE guidance posters and correspondence from the department of health.