



St. Patrick's Primary School,
Legamaddy
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13th September 2021

Dear Parent,

The Public Health Agency have updated their advice to schools regarding arrangements for the identification of Close Contacts from Friday 9th September. Schools will no longer be required to respond to COVID-19 cases and identify contacts. Instead the Public Health Agency (PHA) Contact Tracing Service will undertake a more targeted approach.

- Positive cases will be contacted directly by the PHA
- Those identified by the PHA as close contacts will be contacted by PHA, not the school as PHA have new guidance on who is deemed a close contact in a school setting
- PHA will provide advice on self-isolation and testing
- Parents are asked to inform the school of their child's positive test or identification as a close contact as part of routine absence reporting
- A "Warn and Inform" letter will be sent to parents from school to inform them of cases in school and to remind them what steps we should all be taking to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school and outside

We continue to implement mitigations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission including cleaning, ventilation, face coverings, consistent groupings (class bubbles) and regular asymptomatic testing using lateral flow tests for staff. If your child attends an after school club, they will be seated with their Class Bubble and resources between groups will not be shared.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in relation to all COVID matters.

Take Care and God Bless

Sarah McDowell

Mrs McDowell

Principal