



11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Public Health Agency (PHA) updated advice regarding the revised arrangements for the Identification of Close Contacts of COVID-19 cases in Schools – 9.9.21**

The PHA Contact Tracing Service will now be responsible for contact tracing for confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools. This should help reduce the potential for large numbers of pupils being required to self-isolate and also reduce the amount of time spent on contact tracing.

At Loughries Integrated Primary School, we will continue to implement mitigations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission by limiting the mixing of classes indoors and outdoors, maintain our cleaning practices and continue to promote regular hand washing.

Children should not attend school if they have COVID-19 symptoms:

1. A new and continuous cough or
2. High temperature/fever (they feel hot to touch on their chest or back)
3. Loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If you or your child displays any symptoms, then you should seek advice from the Public Health Agency website: <https://check.covid-19.hscni.net/SymptomChecker/Introduction>

Where a case of confirmed COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been reported in a person with links to our school, all close contacts of the case who need to take specific actions with regard to testing and self-isolation will be identified, contacted and advised by the Public Health Agency (PHA) Contact Tracing Service. The PHA may also need to contact school to assist with identifying close contacts.

**Absences**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please inform the school office immediately by phone (028 817528) or email ( [info@loughriesips.newtownards.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@loughriesips.newtownards.ni.sch.uk) )

Thank you for your support as we continue to work together through these difficult times to keep our school open and our children and staff safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Thompson  
Principal