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Dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19

Each main class cohort will be considered a separate group for the purpose of managing suspected cases. Each staff member will be required to manage a suspected case in line with the protocol and training.

The school management team will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases have been adhered to.

Isolation Area

1. We have identified a place in the Junior School Building that can be used as an isolation area.
(Ms Toher's former classroom)
2. The isolation area is accessible to staff and students with disabilities.
3. The route to the isolation area is accessible.
4. We have a contingency plan, including a second isolation area for dealing with more than one suspected case of COVID-19
5. The following are available in the isolation area(s)
 - PPE
 - Hand sanitiser
 - Disinfectant/wipes
 - Gloves/Masks
 - Waste Bags
 - Bins
 - Tissues

Isolating a Person

6. Procedures are in place to accompany the infected person to the isolation area, along the isolation route with physical distancing from them.
7. Staff are familiar with this procedure
8. Others have been advised to maintain a distance of at least 2m from the affected person at all times (as per DES online training)
9. There is a disposable mask to wear for the affected person while in the common area and when exiting the building.

Arranging for the affected person to leave the School

- 10. Staff** – It will be established if the staff member feels well enough to travel home or if a family member needs to be contacted.
- 11. Student** – A member of Senior Management will immediately contact their parents/guardians and arrange for them to collect their child. Under no circumstances can a student use public or school transport to travel home if they are a suspected case of COVID-19.
- 12.** The affected person will be advised to avoid touching other people, surfaces and objects.
- 13.** The affected person will be advised to cover their mouth and nose with disposable tissue(s) when they cough or sneeze, and to put the tissue in the bin.
- 14.** Transport home or to an assessment centre will be arranged if the affected person has been directed to go there by their GP.
- 15.** The affected person will be advised not to go to their GP's surgery or any pharmacy or hospital.
- 16.** The affected person will be advised that they must not use public transport.
- 17.** The affected person will be advised to continue wearing the face mask until they reach home.

Follow up

- 18.** Senior Management will carry out an assessment of the incident to identify any follow-up actions that may be needed.
- 19.** The LWR will be advised of the incident in accordance with the agreed protocol.
- 20.** Senior Management will be available to provide advice and assistance if contacted by the HSE.

Cleaning

- 21.** The isolation area will be taken out-of-use until cleaned and disinfected.
- 22.** Arrangements will be made to clean and disinfect any classroom space where the staff or students were located.
- 23.** Cleaning and disinfection of the isolation area and any other areas involved will be arranged as soon as is practical after the affected person has left the building.
- 24.** The cleaners will deal with contaminated areas and supplied with the appropriate PPE.