

Advice during COVID-19

Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare settings

Guidance for Services providing transportation to and from schools

As Early Learning Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) services begin to return to normal, it is important for babies, toddlers and young children that child-centredness continues to be a basis for how we develop our response for children. When all the child's most important adults—parents and practitioners—work together, going to ELC and SAC can be a positive experience for everyone.

Everyone is continuing to work very hard to ensure the safe operation of ELC and SAC for staff, children and their families.



Public Health guidance on the operation of transport to and from ELC and SAC services includes the following measures:

- Transport personnel should not attend for work if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been identified as close contacts of COVID-19.
- Collection/drop off by the service should only be provided to children who are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
- Face coverings should be worn by the driver where not a barrier to care of or communication with the children.
- Surfaces should be wiped between uses and supplies of tissues, sanitiser and wipes should be available in the vehicle.
- Hand hygiene should be observed by the driver and the children.
- Where practical, children from the same play-pod or family should be seated together.
- Children should enter and leave the vehicle one at a time and in an organised manner.



You may need to consider what additional measures you can implement in relation to your service transport which could help to minimise the risk of COVID-19. The suggestions listed below will not work for all services and so you should consider what will work in your particular circumstances. You are also advised to engage with the schools that the children in your service attend to ensure appropriate coordination.

- If possible, consider staggered drop off and collections to operate at a reduced capacity/ limit the bus to children from one play-pod.
- Collect from one school at a time.
- Implement assigned seating (keeping children from the same school/play-pod/family together).
- Where possible use empty seats to separate different groups of children.
- Talk to your parents – as many people are working from home, some parents may be available to transfer their children from school to the service.
- Consider the ventilation of the bus/transport - is it safe to have windows open? Is the air conditioning working well?



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth