

## Advice during COVID-19

# Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare settings

## Advice for parents

As Early Learning and 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 will need to remain vigilant and continue follow Public Health guidance.

## Here's what we need to know to keep everyone safe:

### Key messages for parents

Limit your contacts to reduce the risk of bringing COVID-19 into the service.

Don't send your child to the service if:

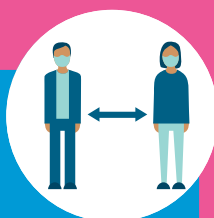
- They have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any member of your household has symptoms of COVID-19
- They have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case
- They have been advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements

If returning from another country, follow the travel advice available on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)

Follow the service's direction in relation to staggered drop-off and collection times.

At drop-off/collection, wear your face covering and don't congregate with others outside.

If the service calls to say your child is unwell, collect them as soon as possible, self-isolate and ring your GP.



### Good handwashing and hygiene practice are important for all children.



Talk to your child about washing their hands regularly.

Talk to your child so they know to ask for and use a tissue to cover coughs or sneezes or to cough or sneeze into their elbow.

### Face coverings

Children in settings are not required to use face coverings.

Talk to your child and explain that adults will be wearing face coverings most of the time.

Parents should wear a face covering if entering the setting and during drop off or collection.



### Transport

Talk to your child about transport services and remind them that they should:

- **Not** use service transport if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Maintain physical distancing while waiting for transport.
- Always sit in their pre-assigned seating/or where they've been asked to sit. Stay in their seat for the duration of the journey.
- Use hand sanitiser when getting on and off the vehicle.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and put the tissue in a bin or cough/ sneeze into their elbow.
- Get on and off the bus in an orderly fashion.



### Communicate openly, early and often

Talk to staff regularly and use various ways to keep in touch, e.g. video calls, private messages.

Talk to your child and remind them that they should talk to grown-ups if something makes them happy/sad or they feel sick.

