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| PHAlogo | *Health Protection Duty Room**Public Health Agency**12-22 Linenhall Street**Belfast**BT2 8BS**Website:- www.publichealth.hscni.net*  |

Ballydown Primary School - Nursery Unit
64 Lisnaree Road Banbridge Down. BT32 4JN

29/11/2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN BALLYDOWN NURSERY UNIT**

The Public Health Agency has been notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19 associated with Ballydown Primary School - Nursery Unit . The Public Health Agency has worked with the nursery to undertake a risk assessment and has identified your child as a **close contact**.

**Advice to self-isolate and arrange a COVID test**

In line with national guidance, children under the age of five are advised, but not required, to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate unless they **develop symptoms or have a positive PCR result.**

**If your child is well and has had a positive PCR Covid test within the previous 90 days no further testing is recommended.** This is because PCR tests can continue to find non-infectious parts of the virus for several weeks.

**What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature and/or
* a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, and has not already tested positive for COVID-19 they should remain at home and arrangements made for them to have a **PCR test** [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). You should arrange a test even if they were tested before and that test was negative.

**Positive PCR test results**

A **new** period of self-isolation will begin for your child, for 10 days from the date of symptoms or date of the test. You will be contacted by the PHA contact tracing service who will identify other contacts and provide you with advice about what to do next. If your child is well at the end of the period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities.

**If the test is negative:**

Provided your child has no COVID-19 symptoms, they can carry on with their normal activities. But **if your child goes on to develop symptoms then they will need another PCR test** and should isolate from the symptoms start until you get the result.

**How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

* wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
* use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
* wash your hands as soon as you get home
* cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
* put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

**Further information**

For further information, please see the Public Health Agency website <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus> or contact NHS 111. If your child feels unwell and you are worried about their symptoms or about anyone else in the home, please contact your GP.

Yours sincerely,

pp Jillian Johnston

Consultant in Public Health Medicine