

11th March 2019

Dear Principal,

On behalf of Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) I would like to provide clarification and assurance to you regarding absences from school as a result of Covid-19.

We are all aware that this is an unprecedented occurrence which raises challenges that have not been experienced previously in our education system.

If a widespread closure of schools is deemed necessary, then this will be communicated directly with schools. Similarly, if the closure of a school(s) is advised by the public health authorities, that will be communicated directly.

However, we would like to provide clarification on the situation with school absences should a school remain open.

If a student is required to self-isolate on foot of medical advice, the school should record this as an explained absence due to illness and the instruction from the HSE/Medical Professional should be accepted by the school as an explanation of the absence.

These are the provisions for children and families affected by Covid-19 virus. All other school attendance monitoring systems will continue as normal.

A school principal may at any time make a referral to TESS if s/he has concerns in relation to a student's attendance.

TESS urge parents to keep up to date on the latest information from the Department of Health and the HSE and make informed decisions related to their child on that basis. Up to date information may be accessed at www.education.ie/covid19

We will continue to communicate with you as the situation develops.

Kind Regards,



Noel Kelly,
Director, Tusla Education Support Service.