

# Brannoxtown Community National School

Brannockstown, Co. Kildare, W91 NY67.  
Principal: Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick  
[www.brannoxtowncns.ie](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie)



## Brannoxtown Community National School (BCNS)

### COVID 19: Additional Measures for Primary Schools 18/11/21

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Dear Parents,

This evening, government Ministers for Education and Public Health announced additional measures regarding COVID-19 in primary schools, effective from Monday, 29th November or sooner. There are **four key messages** from today's announcements regarding COVID-19 in schools. The Pod grouping system, referred to by Ministers is the grouping system in schools to maximise social distancing and minimise risk of infection. At Brannoxtown CNS, we have four pods:

Stage 1: Junior & Senior Infants (x11 children)

Stage 2: 1st and 2nd Class (x14 children)

Stage 3: 3rd and 4th Class (x12 children)

Stage 4: 5th & 6th Class (x13 children)

#### 1. Antigen tests are available for children who are asymptomatic close contacts in school

Antigen tests will be sent to children's parents by the HSE in the following cases:

- If a child is confirmed positive for COVID-19, antigen tests will be available to parents of other children in the same pod.
- If two or more children are confirmed positive for COVID-19 within seven days, in more than one pod, antigen testing will be offered to the full class.

#### 2. Parents are to report a positive case to the school principal

Parents/guardians of a child who has tested positive for COVID-19 following a PCR test, are asked to tell their school's principal. The school principal will notify parents of other children in the pod. No personal details will be shared. Parents will have the option to receive free antigen tests for their child, to be delivered to your home.

#### 3. Antigen tests are optional

- It is not mandatory for children to participate in antigen testing.
- Children in a pod with a child who has tested positive for COVID-19 can continue to attend school without antigen testing, if they are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Principals will not gather evidence of participation in antigen testing or test results.

#### 4. Symptomatic children should stay home and be tested

A child who displays any symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate at home and a parent should arrange a PCR test.

More detailed information for parents is available on the next page. The DES/HSE plan to publish additional information for parents next week, which the school will forward, when received.

Kind regards,

Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal  
Brannoxtown CNS  
[www.brannoxtowncns.ie](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie)

Updated: 18th November 2021



## Additional Measures for Primary Schools 18/11/21

### Information for Parents

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#### How the programme will work for parents:

- A parent who receives a 'detected'/positive PCR COVID-19 test result for their child should notify the school principal immediately by message:
  - to the Class Dojo, using the text function, or
  - to the school email ([brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie](mailto:brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie)) with COVID-19 URGENT in the subject line.
- The Principal will inform parents of children in the same pod that they are close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- The Principal will offer parents of children in the same pod as a positive case, the opportunity to order antigen tests from the distribution company.
- For parents who choose antigen tests, these will be posted to their home.
- Parents will carry out the antigen test on the day they receive it and every second day until three tests have been completed (on days 1, 3 and 5).
- Children in the pod can continue to attend school as long as:
  - they remain asymptomatic and/or
  - their antigen test results remain 'not detected'.

#### If a child's antigen test indicates a positive result:

- If an antigen test is positive, the child isolates at home and the child's parent logs onto the HSE to request a PCR test.
- The antigen test distribution company will record the numbers of antigen tests distributed, batch numbers and the names of the relevant schools.

#### If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19:

- If at any stage a child becomes symptomatic they should isolate at home and organise a COVID-19 PCR test.
- A 'not-detected' antigen test holds no value in this situation of a symptomatic child.

#### If two or more cases arise in a class, outside a single pod, within a seven-day period:

- In this scenario, antigen testing will be offered to the full class.