

22 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **CLARIFICATION OF SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19**

Further to my letter of 18 September, we had a query about the role of Covid 19 symptoms of diarrhoea /vomiting. This letter provides further advice and clarification.

Covid 19 is a new disease and we are constantly learning about symptoms and their prevalence in different populations. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health lists the most common symptoms:

- > 50% of cases have cough and fever;
- 30-40% of cases have upper respiratory tract symptoms (such as sore throat and rhinorrhoea);
- approximately 10% of cases have diarrhoea and vomiting

However, diarrhoea/vomiting in children during this season is most commonly associated with viral gastroenteritis so at this point diarrhoea and vomiting are not included in the symptoms which are required to obtain a test for Covid-19. If a child has symptoms of diarrhoea/ vomiting they must be excluded from school for a period of 48 hours after their symptoms resolve.

I hope this is helpful but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Dr Nada Lemic  
Director of Public Health