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10<sup>TH</sup> July 2020

Via email to [CCO@hse.ie](mailto:CCO@hse.ie) & [Colm.Henry@hse.ie](mailto:Colm.Henry@hse.ie)

Dear Colm,

As you will be aware, the HPSC has published infection prevention and control guidance for childcare and educational settings, and the relevant sectors are now integrating this into the reopening of these settings in the context of COVID-19.

Separate to this guidance, there is a need to examine the wider approach to the planning of care for children with respiratory symptoms this winter. A core principle underpinning our approach to COVID-19 is, and must remain, the rapid identification, isolation and testing of all suspect cases, including children. However, a differentiated approach in terms of alternative modalities of, and pathways for, testing in community settings may be appropriate for children. In addition, there is a need for clear protocols and guidance regarding the small proportion of children who experience transient fever following immunisation. Finally, guidance is required regarding the medical certification and return to school or childcare settings following the resolution of illness.

I am writing, therefore, to thank you for your offer of support during the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020, and request that you ask the Integrated Care Programme for Children (along with accessing any additional expertise that may be required), to examine the three issues outlined above. I would ask that recommendations are developed for consideration by the NPHE, having regard to the public health needs and requirements, and guidance which is expected to be published by the ECDC in the coming weeks. As always, officials from this Department are available to work with you and your team.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ronan Glynn  
Acting Chief Medical Officer  
Chair of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team