

## **New Horizons Montessori COVID-19 Response Plan**

### **A. Information on COVID -19**

As outlined by the HPSC, COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways of people it infects. New Horizons Montessori has updated its 'Infection Control Policy' to prevent the spread of this disease.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- **loss of sense of smell, change in sense of taste, or loss of sense of taste**

### **B. Plan for Dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19 in a child**

New Horizons Montessori identifies the following steps to be followed if a child has a suspected case of COVID-19

- Isolate the sick child with an adult in the '**Isolation Area**' identified for New Horizons.
- This 'Isolation Area' is **under the canopy at the front of the house** thus providing safety to other children/adults along with the adult caring for the sick child (See further our 'Covid-19 Plan')
- The child's parents will be contacted immediately by the adult caring for the sick child. The child will be placed on a chair to rest.
- The adult caring for the child will wear a mask, visor, gloves and an apron. All other children will be cared for by the other members of staff and will be kept away from the sick child at all times.
- The child will be collected by their parent/guardian who will contact their GP and follow their GP's guidance.
- In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, Eileen Condon will wait with the child. In Eileen's absence Fiona Mc Connell will wait with the child.
- Linda/Michael will contact TUSLA and HSE within 3 days if the child has COVID-19 with the appropriate Notification of Incident Form
- The child will be excluded from New Horizons Montessori until they have been cleared by their GP to return to school.

### **C. Plan for Dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19 in a staff member**

- The staff member will isolate immediately away from children or other staff until they leave the premises.
- The staff member will contact their GP and follow their guidance on testing and isolation.
- The staff member will return to school when they are permitted by their doctor.

Where a case of COVID is confirmed with either a child or staff member, New Horizons Montessori will contact parents to inform the and follow the HSE advice on further cleaning and closure.

**In the event of a case of COVID-19 or any other infectious disease, New Horizons Montessori will follow HSE guidelines. Where closure is not necessarily advised by the HSE, but New Horizons considers this to be a necessary precaution, New Horizons may temporarily close to protect all children and adults attending each day out of an abundance of caution.**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parents)**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Staff)**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_**