

FAQ for Parents/Guardians of children attending a Rainbows Group

1. Do I need to complete a Health questionnaire for my child before they attend Rainbows?

Yes. As part of the enrolment process, parents/guardians will be asked to complete a short health questionnaire for their child. Rainbows also asks that should a child or any member of the household be unwell that they do not attend Rainbows for the duration of the sickness.

2. My child has a health condition, should I send them to Rainbows?

Current advice from the HSE for anyone considered **very high risk**, is to cocoon.

The list of people in very high risk groups include people who:

- are over 70 years of age - even if you're fit and well
- have had an organ transplant
- are undergoing active chemotherapy for [cancer](#)
- are having radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
- have cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
- are having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
- are having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, [Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency](#), [severe asthma](#), pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and [severe COPD](#)
- have a condition that means you have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
- are [taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections](#) (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppression therapies)
- have a serious heart condition and you're pregnant

For more information on children and COVID -19 please visit:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/protecting-your-child.html>

3. Will my child's temperature be checked before, during or after Rainbows groups?

No, the public health advice is that routine temperature checking for staff and/or children is not required.

4. Will my child be tested for COVID-19 prior to attending a group?

No, public health advice is that children attending groups do not need to be tested for COVID-19 unless they are displaying symptoms such as fever (high temperature), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Your child should not attend the service if they or anyone else in the household is displaying symptoms. They should stay home and you should contact your GP.

5. Will my child have to wear a face covering?

Current advice is that it is not appropriate for anyone under the age of 13 to wear a face mask or anyone who:

- has trouble breathing
- is unconscious or incapacitated
- is unable to remove it without help
- has special needs and who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the face covering”.

Children/teens over the age of 13 may wear a mask if they so wish, but it is not a requirement.

6. Will there be physical distancing in groups?

Rainbows are making every reasonable effort to ensure that there is at least 2 metre distance between children in groups. However this may not always be possible giving physical space.

7. How can I drop off and collect my child safely?

The Rainbows Coordinator will notify you about the arrangements in place for dropping off and picking up children. The key principle is that drop offs and collections will be organised to maintain physical distance between adults and between children from different groups.

8. Am I allowed to enter the Programme Centre?

The public health guidance is based on two key principles:

- That services should take steps to ensure individuals with symptoms do not enter the service, and
- These services should take steps to reduce the chance of spread of the virus in case an infectious person, without symptoms, enters the building.

For the above reasons, Rainbows asks that parents/guardians do not enter the building unless requested to do so by the Coordinator.

9. What happens if a volunteer or child is suspected to have COVID-19? Will the service shut?

If a child/volunteer in the service is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 arrangements will be made for them to leave/be collected from the service immediately. They or their parents/guardians should be advised to contact their doctor.

10. Will there be contact tracing?

Yes. Each week Rainbows will keep a record of all children attending groups and hold this information for 14 days after the last session. This is to ensure fast and efficient contact tracing should a suspected or confirmed case occur.

If you have any concerns about your child attending Rainbows please speak with the local Rainbows Coordinator.

You may also contact Jennifer a National Office on 01 473 4175 opt 1 or email jennifer@rainbowsireland.ie

Rainbows Ireland