

If your child has symptoms of coronavirus

Your child will need to self-isolate if they have [symptoms of coronavirus](#).

They may also need to :

- be tested
- have [treatment at home for their symptoms](#)

Read about how to treat a child at home who has:

- [a fever \(temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher\)](#)
- [cold, cough or viral infection](#)
- [lost or changed sense of smell or taste](#)

If you are worried about your child or their symptoms get more severe, phone your GP. Tell your GP that you think your child may have coronavirus. Your GP will take precautions to keep other patients safe.

Self-isolation

You may be caring for a child while they are in self-isolation. Read [advice on what self-isolation is and what you and your child need to do](#).

Test for coronavirus

To be assessed for a test, your child will need to have specific symptoms and be in a priority group.

Read more about [testing for coronavirus](#).

Bringing your child to a test centre

You may need to drive your child to a test centre. They may find going to a test centre a strange experience. They will see people in protective clothing. They may find this frightening.

Explain to them what will happen before they go. You can read about [what to expect at a test centre](#).

These visual guides may also help children who need to be tested: (Go to: www2.hse.ie)

[Getting ready to go to the Test Centre \(Comic\) \(PDF, 5.35 MB, 3 pages\)](#)

[Getting ready to go to the Test Drive-in Centre \(Comic\) \(PDF, 4.30 MB, 3 pages\)](#)

[Autism Social Story for Testing \(PDF, 837 KB, 4 pages\)](#)

Paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (PIMS) A small number of children who have coronavirus have needed hospital treatment for an inflammatory syndrome called paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (PIMS). PIMS is a life-threatening disorder caused by an unusual response to an infection by your body's immune system. It is similar to Kawasaki disease or toxic shock syndrome and is very rare. We don't know if these children developed PIMS because they have coronavirus. It is too early to tell if there is a link.

Children who now need hospital treatment for PIMS are being tested for the virus. This is a precaution.

Do not put off contacting your GP or local paediatric unit if your child is unwell. Your child has a better chance of recovery from any medical condition if they see a healthcare professional quickly.