

**COLÁISTE
IOGNÁID**



**Covid-19 Code of Behaviour
for Return to School following
closure**

**Ratified by
The Board of Management
on the 19th August 2020**

Part 1 Facts about COVID-19

HSE Information and Advice

There is a wealth of information and advice is available at this [link](#). Some relevant posters are included below:



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.' The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The [symptoms of COVID-19](#) can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. These symptoms are similar to the flu (influenza) or the common cold, which are a lot more common than COVID-19. This is why testing is required to confirm if someone has COVID-19. *This is not an exhaustive list of symptoms and that it is the responsibility of the student and their family to make themselves familiar with an up-to-date list of symptoms.*

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it. See also the HSE [website](#).

Who is most at risk?

We are learning more about how COVID-19 affects people every day. Older people, and people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, appear to be more at risk of developing severe symptoms. We know it is possible for people of any age to be infected with the virus, but so far there are relatively few cases of COVID-19 reported among children. This is a new virus and we need to learn more about how it affects children. The virus can be fatal in rare cases, so far mainly among older people with pre-existing medical conditions. See also the HSE [website](#).

What is the treatment for COVID-19?

There is no currently available vaccine for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and getting early care from a healthcare provider can make the disease less dangerous. There are several clinical trials that are being conducted to evaluate potential therapeutics for COVID-19. See HSE [website](#) for managing COVID-19 symptoms at home.

How can the spread of COVID-19 be slowed down or prevented?

As with other respiratory infections like the flu or the common cold, public health measures are critical to slow the spread of illnesses. Public health measures are **everyday preventive actions** that include:

- ✓ staying home when ill or presenting with symptoms of COVID-19;
- ✓ covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing (note dispose of used tissue immediately);
- ✓ washing hands often with soap and water; and
- ✓ cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects.

See HSE [website](#) for further information. As we learn more about COVID-19 public health officials may recommend additional actions, which as a school we will support.

Part 2

Introduction

Today, young people are global citizens, powerful agents of change and the next generation of caregivers, scientists, and doctors. Any crisis presents the opportunity to help them learn, cultivate compassion and increase resilience while building a safer and more caring community. Having information and facts about

COVID-19 will help diminish students' fears and anxieties around the disease and support their ability to cope with any secondary impacts in their lives.

Education can encourage students to become advocates for disease prevention and control **at home, in school, and in their community** by talking to others about how to prevent the spread of viruses.

Checklist for Students

Young people should understand basic, age-appropriate information about coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including its symptoms, complications, how it is transmitted and how to prevent transmission. Stay informed about COVID-19 through reputable sources, such as the HSE [website](#). Be aware of fake information/myths that may circulate by word-of-mouth or online.

- 1. In a situation like this it is normal to feel sad, worried, confused, scared or angry. Know that you are not alone.
 - Talk to someone you trust, like your parent/guardian or any member of staff so that you can help keep yourself and your school safe and healthy.
 - Ask questions, educate yourself and get information from reliable sources
- 2. Protect yourself and others.
 - Wash your hands frequently, always with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Remember to not touch your face
 - Do not share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with others
 - Wear a mask at all times in class.
- 3. Be a leader in keeping yourself, your school, family and community healthy.
 - Share what you learn about preventing disease with your family and friends, especially with younger children
 - Model good practices such as sneezing or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands, especially for younger family members
- 4. Don't stigmatise your peers or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn't follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age, ability or gender.
- 5. Tell your parents, another family member, or a caregiver if you feel sick, and ask to stay home.

Checklist for Parents/Guardians

- 1. Monitor your child's health and **keep them home from school if they are ill or presenting with symptoms of COVID-19**
- 2. Communicate immediately with the school if your child or family member gets a diagnosis of COVID-19
- 3. Teach and model good hygiene practices for your children
 - Wash your hands with soap and safe water frequently. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water, if hands are visibly dirty

- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow and avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, nose

Behaviour Principles

In light of the need for students to behave differently and to follow specific rules on their return to school during the Covid-19 epidemic, this amendment to the Code of Behaviour outlines specific changes to guidance that students will have to follow. Our guiding principle when making any changes or adjustments to policy is to be able to keep all of our students, families and staff safe and place their wellbeing at the forefront of everything we do.

These amendments will be communicated to students, parents and staff.

Our Expectations:

- Staff or students should not attend school if displaying any [symptoms of COVID-19](#). This means that any member of the school community, who is displaying possible symptoms of Covid-19 must remain off the school campus, seek a medical diagnosis and remain off the campus until their situation has been clarified by a recognised medical practitioner.
- Staff or students who have travelled outside Ireland must have completed 14 days of self-isolation and/or quarantine prior to returning to the school campus. All staff and students should ensure awareness of this and fulfil this requirement.

Should a student return from a "Green List" country, there will be no requirement to restrict movements. However, the student's parent/guardian should notify the school in advance in writing, to include the travel details, of their intention to travel abroad to a "Green List" country. The "Green List" will be regularly reviewed by government and may change, and parents/guardians should be aware that whatever restricted movement requirements are in place on their date of return will apply to the student.

Students (or their parents/guardians) should log on to www.dfa.ie immediately prior to their return to Ireland to ensure they are fully apprised of any changes to the "Green List", and any necessary requirement to restrict their movements.

- In the case of a student developing potential Covid-19 symptoms while on the school campus parents/guardians will be required to collect their child **within a one-hour period** from the time of notification.
- All in the school community will follow HSE [guidelines](#) for cough and sneeze etiquette.
- No student should ever cough, sneeze or spit at or towards any other person on school grounds.
- Masks should be worn at all time in the classroom. Masks may be removed at break and lunch time or where a distance of 2m can be maintained.

- A 1m distance must be maintained at all times including break and lunch times. A limited number of students will be allowed in the atrium at any one time. Students may have to be asked to leave the atrium if it is too busy.
- Students will not be allowed to wait on the school premises at the end of their school day. Arrangements should be made for prompt collection or for students to make their way home immediately after school.
- School sanctions, up to and including expulsion, may be considered appropriate if these conditions are not adhered to.

Changes to School Routines and Procedures

Additional routines and procedures will be put in place to protect all in the community. The expectation is that all will follow the new routines .

- Altered routines for arrival or departure.
- One way systems around the school
- Students in base classrooms where possible.
- Staggered break and lunch times.
- New rules about NOT sharing any equipment, textbooks, pencil case items, or other items including drinking bottles
- Access to toilet facilities will be limited in order to maintain social distancing. No more than two people will be allowed in the toilet at any one time.
- Only a limited number of students will be allowed in the Atrium at any one time.

Hygiene and Health Expectations:

- Prepare a pack of hygiene items (Hand sanitisers, face mask, headphones, a pack of antibacterial wipes) and have them with you at all times in school.
- When leaving your class to go to another class wipe down the desk with your antibacterial wipe.
- Following HSE [guidelines](#) on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- Following HSE [guidelines](#) about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal (including 'catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- Tell an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
- Every single item belonging to a student must be labelled clearly
 - Everything in pencil case
 - Lunch box and reusable bottle
 - Every single copy and textbook (clearly on the outside covers)
 - Every piece of equipment that you need for any student
- Lost property THAT IS CLEARLY NAMED will **where possible** be returned to students
- Lost property THAT IS NOT CLEARLY NAMED will **be recycled that day** as we cannot risk giving property back to the wrong person for hygiene and health reasons

Pack of Hygiene items

All students are expected to have a bag (*clearly labelled with student's name*) with the following items which you check and refresh on a Friday night in readiness for Monday morning:

➤ Hand sanitiser

➤ Headphones

(*needed if using devices with sound which may be the case if tuning into a teacher from a separate classroom – if possible, please don't bring large headphones, bring small headphones e.g. mobile phone ones*)

➤ Face Mask

There are lots of YouTube videos on how to make your own (one example is [here](#)) – if buying a face mask can we encourage you to buy one that you can wash at 60°

➤ Pack of Antibacterial Wipes

Note:

- Clearly label all items with the student's name.
- For hygiene reasons students are not permitted to share these (or any other personal) items.



How the school will deal with a suspected case of COVID-19 that may arise in a school setting.

A designated isolation area has been identified within the school building. The possibility of having more than one person displaying symptoms of COVID-19 has been considered and a contingency plan for dealing with additional cases put in place.

If a student displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- the parents/guardians will be contacted immediately and will be asked to come to school immediately to collect the student
- the parent/guardian will come to school **within a one-hour period** from the time of notification
- the school will isolate the student and have a procedure in place to accompany the student to the designated isolation area via the isolation route, keeping at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic person at all times
- the student should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects
- advice should be given to the student presenting with symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- if it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2 metres a staff member caring for a student should wear a face covering or mask

- a mask will be provided for the person presenting with symptoms *if one is available*. The person should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises
- on arrival at the school the parent/guardian will go to emergency exit beside the front door to collect the student *and not enter further into the building*
- the parent/guardian will be asked to assess whether the student who is displaying symptoms can immediately go home or needs additional medical support – it will not be an option for the student to remain in school
- if it is the case that the student can be brought home, then their parent/guardian will ensure the student continues to self-isolation at home
- if the student is well enough to go home, the parent/guardian should as soon as possible inform their general practitioner by phone of the students' symptoms
- public transport of any kind should not be used
- if the student is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the parent/guardian should contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect
- in the case that the student is too unwell to await the arrival of the parent/guardian then the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect
- the school will arrange for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved

Return to the school campus

To ensure that the return to school is safe and secure for all and that, within the limitations imposed by Covid-19, the school can provide for the wellbeing of each of our students, return to the school campus following the school closure is **based each staff member, student and family supporting all aspects of this policy**. Students and parents/guardians have signed our code of behaviour and this is now part of that code of behaviour.

Other

As new information from the Department of Education and/or the HSE comes to light the school reserves the right to add to or adjust this policy.

This policy was agreed on the date noted below.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 20 August 2020

Signed: 
Principal

Date: 20th August 2020