



wwetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
*Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board*

COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of WWETB Post Primary Schools

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This is a living document and may be reviewed and amended to take into account new guidance from www.Gov.ie, www.dbei.ie, www.hse.ie, www.hpsc.ie, www.hsa.ie; www.education.ie or agreements with education partners as appropriate for post primary schools.

Appendices

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1) Introduction

The Minister for Education has published “The Roadmap for the Full Return to School” on the 27th July. It sets out what the operation of schools will look like and the range of supports which will be available in a COVID-19 context.

It has been developed in line with public health advice issued by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and in compliance with the “Return to Work Safely Protocols” developed by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health with guidance documents provided by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). Each workplace is required to have a COVID-19 Response Plan. In addition to being places of learning, schools are also places of work. This document sets out the information that post primary schools need to implement a School COVID-19 Response Plan, including a COVID-19 policy, lead worker representative/s (LWR) and a process to deal with a suspected case of COVID-19.

The purpose of this document is to provide clear and helpful guidance for the safe operation of post primary schools through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19. It provides key messages to minimise the risk of COVID-19 for staff, students, families and the wider community while recognising the importance of education for the health and wellbeing of students and society as a whole.

This document focuses on the practical steps which can be taken in post primary schools to minimise the risk of infection while recognising that no interpersonal activity is without risk of transmission of infection at any time. The documentation and templates in this booklet are supported by the public health advice provided by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) for the safe reopening of schools and educational facilities.

That report is available [here](#).

Further advice from the HPSC on the use of face coverings in educational settings was received on the 6th August. This advice is available [here](#).

One of the key challenges is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for teaching and learning. This document identifies the steps schools can take to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school and the steps that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of the spread within the school itself in the event that COVID-19 is introduced to the school.

The Department has worked intensively with the education partners to develop consistent plans, advice, protocols and guidance for schools, including the School COVID-19 Response plan. There is a suite of documentation available to support schools to reopen safely and fully including guidance on learning, school programmes and wellbeing for the 2020/21 school year. There is also information on funding, staffing and resources to schools to support COVID-19 measures. Schools are advised to familiarise themselves with these documents. All of the documents will be available at gov.ie/backtoschool

In addition the Department has a communication plan for school reopening which focuses on ensuring that schools, school communities and all stakeholders will have the relevant information to support the reopening and continued operation of schools. There is a particular focus on supporting parents and students through the appropriate use of media channels, through schools themselves and on gov.ie

2) What is a COVID-19 Response Plan?

A COVID-19 Response Plan is designed to support the staff and Board of Management (BOM)/Education Training Board (ETB) in putting measures in place that aim to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school environment

The COVID-19 Response Plan details the policies and practices necessary for a school to meet the Government's 'Return to Work Safely Protocol', the Department of Education plan for school reopening that will aim to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment.

It is important that the resumption of school based teaching and learning and the reopening of schools complies with the public health advice and guidance documents prepared by the Department. Doing so minimises the risk to students, staff and others. The response plan supports the sustainable reopening of school where the overriding objective is to protect the health of staff and students while promoting the educational and development needs of the children in the school. The COVID-19 response plan is a living document and will be updated in line with the public health advice and any other relevant agreement with education partners as appropriate for post primary schools.

In line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol, the key to a safe and sustainable return to work, and reopening of schools requires strong communication and a shared collaborative approach between WWETB, staff, students and parents.

The assistance and cooperation of all staff, students, parents, contractors and visitors is critical to the success of the plan.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this document. However, should errors or omissions be identified, please notify us so that appropriate measures can be taken to rectify same.

3) School COVID-19 Policy

A COVID-19 policy outlines the commitment of the school to implement the plan and help prevent the spread of the virus. The policy will be signed and dated by the chairperson and principal of the BOM/ETB and brought to the attention of the staff, students, parents and others. Schools must have a COVID-19 policy in place prior to the reopening of schools for the 2020/21 school year. The individual School COVID-19 policy can be found at **Appendix 1**.

4) Planning and Preparing for Return to School

WWETB aims to facilitate the resumption of school-based teaching and learning and the return to the workplace of staff. The return to the workplace must be done safely and in strict adherence to the public health advice and any guidance issued by the Department of Education.

Details for the safe reopening of the schools and the applicable controls are outlined in this document.

Before reopening schools for the 2020/21 school year each school will need to have processes in place to include the following:

- Means of keeping up to date with public health advice, changes to any Government plans for the safe reopening of society and Department of Education updates;
- Means of passing on this information in a timely manner to staff, students, parents and others as required;
- Ensured that staff have reviewed the training materials provided by the Department of Education (*details at Section 4.1*);
- Provided staff with access to the Return to Work (RTW) form (*details at Section 4.2*);
- Identified a Lead Worker representative (*details at Section 4.3*);
- Displayed posters and other signage to prevent introduction and spread of COVID-19 (*details at Section 4.4*);
- Made the necessary changes to the school layout to support the redesign of classrooms to support physical distancing (*details at Section 4.5*);
- Removed unnecessary clutter to facilitate ongoing cleaning of the school but take into account the importance of having educational materials to create a stimulating learning environment;
- Updated the health and safety risk assessment (*details at Section 4.6*);
- Made necessary arrangements to restrict access to the school and maintain records of contacts to the school (*details at 4.7*);
- Reviewed the school buildings to check the following:
 - Does the water system need flushing at outlets following low usage to prevent Legionella disease;
 - Has school equipment and mechanical ventilation been checked for signs of deterioration or damage before being used again;
 - Have bin collections and other essential services resumed.

There are checklists in place to assist schools on the details of what is needed for these arrangements in the appendices of this plan.

4.1) Induction Training

All staff will undertake and complete COVID-19 Induction Training prior to returning to the school building. The aim of such training is to ensure that staff have full knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Latest up to-date advice and guidance on public health

- COVID-19 symptoms
- What to do if a staff member or pupil develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- Outline of the COVID-19 response plan

Staff will be kept fully informed of the control measures in place in the school and their duties and responsibilities in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and will be updated with any changes to the control measures or guidance available from the public health authorities.

If a staff member is unsure about any aspect of the COVID-19 Response Plan, the associated control measures, or his/her duties, he/she should immediately seek guidance from the Principal who is supported in this role by WWETB.

Induction Training for reopening schools in the new school year has been developed by the Department and is available [here](#).

A national information campaign to support parents and students will happen in advance of schools reopening on issues such as COVID-19 awareness and to help minimise the risk of introduction and spread of the virus in schools. Information for parents and students is available [here](#).

4.2) **Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)**

In order to return to the workplace, staff must complete a **Return to Work (RTW)** form, which is available electronically or from the principal. A hard copy is attached also at **Appendix 2**.

A RTW form should be completed and returned **3 days** before returning to work.

On receipt of the completed form the principal will provide details of the **Induction Training** for completion by staff prior to the return to the workplace and details of any additional health and safety measures in place in the school to facilitate the staff member's return to the school facility.

There are some school staff who may be unable to return to school. Current public health guidelines have identified these people as being in groups who are defined as being at **very high risk**.

People at very high risk (extremely vulnerable):

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

- are over 70 years of age – even if 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
- have severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and severe COPD
- have a condition that means they 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 are pregnant

The advice for this group is available from the HSE. Details of the arrangements that will apply for these staff, which will be in accordance with those applying for the public service generally, are outlined in the following circulars:

CL0049/2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary schools

CL0050/2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for staff other than Teachers and SNAs who are employed by ETBs

CL0054/2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for certain employees of recognised Primary and Post Primary schools in the Free Education Scheme and of ETBs, employed using grant funding (School Secretary • Caretaker • Cleaner • Bus Escort)

All of these circulars may be found [here](#).

4.3) **Lead Worker Representative**

The protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each workplace. The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

This section sets out how the provisions will operate in respect of schools. These arrangements will operate for the 2020/21 school year and will be kept under review.

Responsibility for the development and implementation of the COVID-19 Response Plan and the associated control measures lies with the Board of Management/ Education and Training Board and school management.

Strong communication and a shared collaborative approach is key to protecting against the spread of COVID-19 in schools, and looking after the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students. Adherence to the Return to Work Protocol will only be achieved if everyone has a shared obligation in implementing the measures contained within the Protocol in their place of work.

If a staff member has any concerns or observations in relation to the COVID-19 Response Plan, control measures or the adherence to such measures by staff, students or others, they should contact the LWR who will engage with school management.

The role of LWR is separate to that of the Safety Representative under the health and safety legislation. However the Safety Representative may act as the LWR if selected to do so by the staff. In summary, the role of the LWR is to:

- Represent all staff in the workplace regardless of role, and be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts;
- Keep up to date with the latest COVID-19 public health advice;
- Work collaboratively with school management to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of employees in relation to COVID-19;
- Consult with school management on the control measures required to minimise the risk of staff and students being exposed to COVID-19;

- Promote good hygiene practices, in conjunction with school management, such as washing hands regularly and maintaining good respiratory etiquette along with maintaining social distancing in accordance with public health advice;
- Assist school management with the implementation of measures to suppress COVID-19 in the workplace in line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol and current public health advice;
- Monitor, in conjunction with school management, adherence to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- Conduct reviews of safety measures that are in place to address and suppress COVID-19 in the workplace. Reviews (including an examination of the workplace) should be conducted on a regular basis (at least twice per week);
- Report any issues of concern immediately to school management and keep records of such issues and actions taken to rectify them;
- Consult with the school management on the school's COVID-19 Response Plan in the event of someone developing COVID-19 while in school including the location of an isolation area and a safe route to that area;
- Following any incident, assess with the school management any follow up action that is required;
- Consult with colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace;
- Make representations to school management on behalf of their colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace.

If a staff member has any concerns or observations in relation to the COVID-19 response plan, control measures or the adherence to such measures by staff, students or other s/he should contact the LWR/s who will engage with the Principal/ETB.

The names and contact details of the Lead Worker Representative/s for individual WWETB schools are provided in the **Appendix 3**.

All staff, students, parents, contractors and visitors have a responsibility, both as individuals and collectively to have due regard for their own health and safety and that of others and to assist with the implementation of the COVID-19 Response Plan and associated control measures.

Full details of the arrangements which apply for the LWR in post primary schools is set out at **Appendix 3**.

4.4) Signage

Schools will be required to display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene. The Department will provide printed posters to schools with age appropriate key health messages – hand washing, sneeze and cough etiquette etc.

Note: Signage is under development by the Department. This will be made available to all schools and staff in advance of school reopening.

The signage can be found [here](#).

Schools can then arrange to display the posters in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms and toilets.

4.5) Making Changes to School Layout

Maintaining physical distancing in the school environment is recommended as one of the key control measures to minimize the risk of the introduction and spread of COVID-19. Further information on how physical distancing can be used in the school environment is found at **Section 5.4** below including a link to the "[Framework to maintain Physical Distancing in the Classroom in Post Primary Schools with a full return of all students for the 2020/21 School Year](#)".

Schools are required to reconfigure classrooms and other areas to support physical distancing in line with the guidance in advance of school reopening.

4.6) Health and Safety Risk Assessment

COVID-19 represents a hazard in the context of health and safety in the school environment. A template risk assessment to identify the control measures required to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in school settings is attached at **Appendix 4**. All WWETB schools have undergone a COVID-19 risk assessment, details of which are available from the school principal.

It is important that schools review their emergency procedures involving, fire safety, first aid, accidents and dangerous occurrences to consider any new risks that arise due to the school's COVID-19 Response Plan. Any changes to the schools existing emergency procedures should be documented and incorporated into the school's safety statement.

Schools should also review their existing risk assessments to consider any new risks that arise due to the school's COVID-19 Response Plan. Any changes to the school's current risk assessments should also be documented and be incorporated into the schools statement.

First Aid/emergency procedure

The standard First Aid/emergency procedure shall continue to apply in schools. In an emergency or in case of a serious incident, schools should call for an ambulance or the fire brigade on 112/999 giving details of location and type of medical incident.

4.7) Access to School and Contact Log

Access to the school building will be in line with agreed school procedures.

Arrangement for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the principal. The Department of Education Inspectorate may also need to visit schools and centres for education to support them as appropriate in the implementation of public health advice relating to creating a safe learning and working environment for all.

The prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a crucial step in restricting the spread of the virus and protecting the health and safety of the individuals themselves and other staff, contractors and visitors at the workplace. A detailed sign in/sign out log of those entering the school facilities should be maintained. The school should maintain a log of staff and students contacts. A sample contact log is available at **Appendix 5**.

The Data Protection Commission has provided guidance on the data protection implications of the return to work protocols. This advice can be found here:

<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/data-protection-implications-return-work-safely-protocol>

Schools are reminded that all school records and data must be maintained and processed in compliance with the GDPR and the Data Protection Acts. The responsibility for compliance with the legislation rests with each school (or ETB) in their role as data controller.

5) Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools

One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread. The risk of spreading the infection once introduced exists in all interpersonal interactions; student - student, teacher - teacher and teacher- student, and must be managed in all settings.

A range of essential control measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID -19 virus and to protect the safety, health and welfare of staff, students, parents and visitors as far as possible within the school. The control measures shall continue to be reviewed and updated as required on an ongoing basis.

It is critical that staff, students, parents and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the control measures outlined and that they fully cooperate with all health and safety requirements. *Staff, should note that they have a legal obligation under Section 13 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to comply with health and safety requirements and to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues and other parties within the workplace.*

How to Minimise the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into schools:

Promote awareness of COVID-19 symptoms (**details at Section 5.1**);

- Advise staff and students that have symptoms not to attend school, to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
- Advise staff and students not to attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as contact for a person with COVID-19 and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
- Advise staff and students that develop symptoms at school to bring this to the attention of the principal (or deputy principal if the principal is unavailable) promptly;
- Ensure that staff and students know the protocol for managing a suspected case of COVID-19 in school (**details at Section 8**);
- Advise everyone entering the school building that they need to perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser;
- Advise all relevant parties that visitors to the school during the day should be by prior arrangement with the principal and should be received at a specific contact point;
- Physical distancing of 2 metres should be maintained between staff and visitors where possible.

5.1) **Know the Symptoms of COVID-19**

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- ✓ High temperature
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ✓ Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

5.2) **Respiratory Hygiene**

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin.

By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

5.3) **Hand Hygiene**

Staff and students should understand why hand hygiene is important as well as when and how to wash their hands.

Schools should promote good hygiene and display posters throughout the schools on how to wash your hands. Follow the HSE guidelines on handwashing:

<https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>

- Hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).
- Use of hand hygiene facilities including wash hand basins needs to be managed so as to avoid congregation of people waiting to use wash hand basins and hand sanitisers.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers can be deployed more readily at exit and entry points of schools and classrooms and care should be taken to clean up any hand sanitizer spills to prevent risks of falls.
- Warm water is preferable to hot or cold water for hand washing but if the plumbing system only supplies cold water, a soap that emulsifies easily in cold water should be used.
- Wash hand basins, running water, liquid soap and hand drying facilities should be provided in all toilets, kitchens and any food preparation areas.
- Hand washing facilities should be maintained in good condition and supplies of soap and towels should be topped up regularly to encourage everyone to use them.
- Hot air dryers are an acceptable alternative for hand drying but must be regularly maintained. There is no evidence that hand dryers are associated with increased risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Posters displaying hand washing techniques and promoting hand washing should be placed on walls adjacent to washing facilities and can be laminated or placed in a plastic sleeve.
- Hand sanitiser is suitable for use for hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled (look clean).
- Evidence of effectiveness is best for alcohol based hand rubs but non-alcohol based hand rubs can be used too.
- When hand rubs/gels are being used in school care should be taken to ensure that students do not ingest them as they are flammable and toxic.

Frequency of Hand Hygiene

Students and staff should perform hand hygiene:

- On arrival at school;
- Before eating or drinking;
- After using the toilet;
- After petting animals;
- After playing outdoors;
- When their hands are physically dirty;
- When they cough or sneeze.

The Department has arranged for a drawdown framework to be established to enable schools purchase hand-sanitisers and any other necessary PPE supplies for use in the school. WWETB has procured required supplies as per Department guidelines utilising the drawdown framework and funding provided.

5.4) **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing can be usefully applied in a post primary school setting allowing for some flexibility when needed. It must be applied in a practical way to recognise that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue. Care should be taken to avoid generating tension or potential conflict and some flexibility in the implementation of measures may be required at time.

It is also recognised that it is not always possible for staff to maintain physical distance from students and it is not appropriate that they would always be expected to do so where this could have a detrimental impact on the student.

However, where possible staff should maintain a minimum of 1 m distance and where possible 2m. They should also take measures to avoid close contact at face to face level such as remaining standing rather than sitting beside/crouching down.

Physical distancing falls into two categories:

- Increasing separation
- Decreasing interaction

Increasing separation

Given that each school setting is different in terms of (i) location; (ii) physical layout (iii) available space within the school; and (iv) student numbers; schools themselves are best placed to decide on the appropriate reconfigurations / operational changes necessary to maintain physical distancing.

In recognition that a ‘one size fits all’ approach would not be appropriate as schools themselves are best placed to decide on the appropriate configuration for their school, the Department has developed a *Framework to maintain Physical Distancing in the Classroom in Post Primary Schools with a full return of all Students for the 2020/21 School Year*. The Framework sets out a suite of available measures that must be implemented at individual school level to the greatest possible extent.

The suite of measures set out in the Framework are:

1. Reconfigure class spaces to maximise physical distancing;
2. Utilising and reconfiguring all available space in the school in order to maximise physical distancing;
3. Review Timetables;
4. Reconfiguring Classes;
5. Consider Use of Live Streaming within the School; and
6. Accessing available spaces within the local community

A link to the “Framework to maintain Physical Distancing in the Classroom in Post Primary Schools with a full return of all Students for the 2020/21 School Year” is provided [here](#).

You can see a link to illustrated classroom layouts to maintain social distancing [here](#).

Decreasing interaction

- The extent to which decreasing interaction is possible in a post primary school will depend on the school setting and a common-sense approach is required recognising the limits to which this can be achieved between students.
- In post primary schools physical distancing of 2m where possible or at least 1m should be maintained between desks or between individual students or staff.
- As far as possible and practical, students would remain in the classroom and teachers would move between rooms.
- As far as possible and practical students would be assigned to a main class cohort which would remain in the classroom for most subjects, with teachers moving between rooms.
- Where possible and practical double classes should be planned to minimise movement during the day.
- Where students have an elective subject, they would move quickly into the new class and would be seated with members of their class cohort, observing as much physical distance as possible.
- Hand washing and/or sanitising would be required when moving between classes by teachers and students.
- Physical distancing between the teacher and class would be observed.
- Where movement of class groups between rooms is required it should be planned to minimise interaction with other class groups.
- Limit interaction on arrival and departure and in hallways and other shared areas.
- Social physical contact (hand to hand greetings, hugs) should be discouraged.
- Where students need to move about within the classroom to perform activities (access to a shared resource) it should be organized to the greatest degree possible to minimise congregation at the shared resource.
- Staff and students should avoid sharing of personal items.
- Where teaching and learning involves use of keyboards or tablets, the contact surface of the device should be cleaned regularly and hand hygiene encouraged.

Physical Distancing outside of the classroom and within the school

School drop off/collection

- Arrangements for dropping off/collecting students should be arranged to maintain physical distancing of 2m where possible.
- Walking/cycling to school should be encouraged as much as possible.
- Aim of any arrangements is to avoid congregation of people at the school gates where physical distancing requirements may not be respected.

- Staggered drop off/pick up times should be arranged where feasible.
- If schools have additional access points, consideration may be given to whether they can be used to reduce congestion.
- Students should head straight to their designated learning space/classroom.

Staff

- A distance of 2m is recommended for physical distancing by staff. This is particularly relevant to distancing between adults when they are not engaged in teaching such as the staff room and arriving to work.
- If 2m cannot be maintained in staff groups, as much as distance as is possible and updated guidance on face covering should be observed.
- At post primary level consideration could be given to formation of staff “pods” or teams who work together and take breaks together.
- Staff meetings should be held remotely or in small groups or in large spaces to facilitate physical distancing.
- Implement no hand shaking policy.
- Minimise gathering at the beginning or end of the school day.

Canteen

- Ensure physical distancing is applied in canteen facilities
- Stagger canteen use and extend serving times where possible to align with class groupings.
- Implement a queue management system.
- Make sure students clean their hands before and after entering the canteen area.

Corridors and Stairwells

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions.

5.5) Use of PPE in Schools

The Department has published “Guidance to Post Primary Schools on PPE consumables and equipment” on [gov.ie/backtoschool](https://www.gov.ie/backtoschool). This provides schools with the information needed on the appropriate quantities of PPE consumables and equipment to support the full and safe reopening of schools.

The updated advice from the HPSC to the Department of Education has recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff members where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from other staff, parents, essential visitors or pupils. The Department has accepted this recommendation. Accordingly, it is now a requirement for face coverings to be worn by staff members where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from other staff, parents, essential visitors or pupils.

PPE will also need to be used at certain work activities or work areas. These might include roles such as:

- Performing intimate care
- Where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation
- Where staff are particularly vulnerable to infection but are not in the list of those categorised as people in very high risk groups, or may be living with people who are in a very high risk category;
- Administering first aid
- Parent Teacher meetings

Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment they should apply standard precautions as per usual practice.

Reception Areas

Consideration should be given to the use of Perspex in reception areas where it is not possible for staff to maintain a physical distance of 2m from other staff or students. Minor works funding grant can be used for this purpose.

Masks/Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings act as a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice. Cloth face coverings are therefore intended to prevent transmission of the virus from the wearer (who may not know that they are infected) to those with whom they come into close contact.

It is therefore a requirement that teachers, staff and students attending post primary schools wear a face covering when a physical distance of 2m from other staff or students cannot be maintained.

In WWETB schools,

1. **Three** reusable face masks will be supplied to each staff member
2. **Two** reusable face masks will be supplied to each post-primary student
3. A supply of disposable masks will be available at each school

WWETB continues to follow the HSA advice regarding the wearing of face masks where possible. Schools will be asked to indicate specific requirements for visors for staff based on individual need.

In certain situations, the use of clear visors should be considered, for example staff interacting with students with hearing difficulties or learning difficulties.

All students on the post primary transport scheme should be asked to wear face coverings unless there is a good reason not to do so.

Cloth face coverings should not be worn by any of the following groups:

- Any person with difficulty breathing
- Any person who is unconscious or incapacitated
- Any person who is unable to remove the face-covering without assistance

- Any person who has special needs and who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the face covering, for example persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity.

All staff and students wearing face coverings should be reminded to not touch the face covering and to wash or sanitise their hands (using hand sanitiser) before putting on and after taking off the face covering.

Information should be provided on the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/>

- All teachers and staff should be aware that they should wash or sanitize hands (using a hand sanitizer) before and after helping a student put on or adjust a face covering.
- Face coverings should be stored in a space designated for each student that is separate from others when not being worn (e.g., in individually labelled containers or bags).
- Cloth face coverings should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled.
- Face coverings should not be worn if they are wet. A wet cloth face covering may make it difficult to breathe.
- Schools should consider having additional disposable face coverings available for students, teachers, and staff in case a back-up face covering is needed during the day.
- Whilst staff may wish to utilize their own face covering on a day-to-day basis, schools
- should have available a stock of additional disposable or multi-use face coverings, or if
- appropriate face visors, available for staff in case a back-up face covering is needed
- throughout the day or where required on an ongoing basis.

On the use of face masks by staff, schools should consider the specific circumstances where the use of medical face masks, to EU Standard EN 14683, may be more appropriate for staff (for example where staff by necessity need to be in close and continued proximity with students with intimate care needs such as SNAs or School Bus Escorts).

Wearing a face covering or mask does not negate the need to stay at home if symptomatic.

Gloves

The use of disposable gloves in the school by students or staff is not generally appropriate but may be necessary for matters such as cleaning, intimate care settings or when administering first aid. Routine use does not protect the wearer and may expose others to risk from contaminated gloves. Routine use of disposable gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene.

Aprons

Aprons may also be appropriate in certain circumstances including for intimate care needs or for staff assigned to cleaning an area where a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 was present.

6) Impact of COVID-19 on certain school activities

The Department will work with stakeholders to provide more detailed advice on school activities in advance of school reopening.

Choir/Music Performance

Choir practices/performances and music practices/performances involving wind instruments may pose a higher level of risk and special consideration should be given to how they are held ensuring that the room is well-ventilated and the distance between performers is maintained.

Sport Activities

Schools should refer to the HPSC guidance on Return to Sport.

Shared Equipment

Art – Where possible students should be encouraged to have their own individual art and equipment supplies.

Electronics – Shared electronic devices such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards should be cleaned between use and consideration could be given to the use of wipeable covers for electronics to facilitate cleaning.

Musical Equipment/Instruments – To the greatest extent possible, instruments should not be shared between students and if sharing is required, the instruments should be

Library Policy – Where practical students should have their own books. Textbooks that are shared should be covered in a wipeable plastic covering that can be wiped with a suitable household cleaning agent between uses. Students should be encouraged to perform hand hygiene after using any shared item.

Shared Sports Equipment – Minimise equipment sharing and clean shared equipment between uses by different people.

Return to School Guidance for Practical Subjects in Post-Primary Schools and Centres for Education is available [here](#)

7) Hygiene and Cleaning in Schools

The Department of Education will provide additional funding to schools to support the enhanced cleaning required to minimise the risks of COVID-19. Details of the funding supports will be provided to schools by way of circular and will be updated as required. The funding will be provided to schools in advance of reopening.

The specific advice in relation to school cleaning is set out in the HPSC advice and will be covered in the induction training. This advice sets out the cleaning regime required to support schools to prevent COVID-19 infections and the enhanced cleaning required in the event of a suspected cases of COVID-19. Schools are asked to carefully read and understand the cleaning advice and to apply that to all areas of the school as appropriate.

- Schools are reminded to take particular care of the hygiene arrangements for wash hand and toilet facilities.
- In summary, each school setting should be cleaned at **least once per day**. Additional cleaning if available should be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities.
- If students are moving between classrooms consideration may be given to appropriate cleaning products being provided to enable them to wipe down their desk, chair, and surface before leaving the room.
- All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Under no circumstances should these cleaning materials be removed from the building.
- Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.
- There will be regular collection of used waste disposal bags from offices and other areas within the school facility.
- Shower facilities shall not be available for use by staff or students due to the increased risk associated with communal shower facilities and areas. This shall be reviewed in line with government guidance.
- Staff must use and clean their own equipment and utensils (cup, cutlery, plate etc.).

Cleaning/Disinfecting rooms where a student/staff member with suspected COVID-19 was present

- The rooms should be cleaned as soon as practicable possible.
- Once the room is vacated the room should not be reused until it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry.
- Disinfection only works on things that are clean. Therefore, when disinfection is required it is always in addition to cleaning.
- Person/s assigned to cleaning should avoid touching their face while they are cleaning and wear household gloves and a plastic apron.
- Clean the environment and furniture using disposable cleaning cloths and a household detergent followed by disinfection with a chlorine-based product (household bleach).
- Pay special attention to frequently touched surfaces, the back of chairs, couches, door handles and any surfaces that are visibly soiled with body fluids.
- Once the room has been cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry, the room can be reused.

8) Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

Staff or students should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. The following outlines how a school should deal with a suspected case that may arise in a school setting.

A designated isolation area should be identified within the school building. The possibility of having more than one person displaying signs of COVID-19 should be considered and a contingency plan for dealing with additional cases put in place. The designated isolation area should be behind a closed door and away from other staff and students.

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

- If the person with the suspected case is a student, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately;
- Isolate the person and have a procedure in place to accompany the individual 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 isolation area does not have to be a room but if it is not a room it should be 2m away from others in the room;
- If it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2m a staff member caring for a student should wear a face covering or mask. Gloves should not be used as the virus does not pass through skin;
- Provide a mask for the person presenting with symptoms. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises;
- Assess whether the individual who is displaying symptoms can immediately be directed to go home/be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home;
- Facilitate the person presenting with symptoms remaining in isolation if they cannot immediately go home and facilitate them calling their doctor. The individual should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects. Advice should be given to the person 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 the person is well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used;
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect;
- Carry out an assessment of the incident which will form part of determining follow-up actions and recovery;
- Arrange for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved – (***details at Section 7***)

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and student confidentiality is essential at all times.

9) **Staff Duties**

Staff have a statutory obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of their colleagues and other parties.

The cooperation and assistance of all staff is essential to reduce the risk of spread of COVID19 and to protect health and safety as far as possible within the school. All staff have a key role to play.

In this regard and in order to facilitate a safe return to work, these duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Adhere to the School COVID-19 Response Plan and the control measures outlined.
- Complete the RTW form before they return to work.
- Must inform the Principal if there are any other circumstances relating to COVID-19, not included in the form, which may need to be disclosed to facilitate their safe return to the workplace.
- Must complete COVID-19 Induction Training and any other training required prior to their return to school.
- Must be aware of, and adhere to, good hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Coordinate practices and work with their colleagues to ensure that physical distancing is maintained.
- Make themselves aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor their own wellbeing.
- Self-isolate at home and contact their GP promptly for further advice if they display any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Not return to or attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 under any circumstances.
- Adhere to the procedure outlined above if they develop any symptoms of COVID-19 whilst within the school facility. .
- Keep themselves informed of the updated advice of the public health authorities and comply with same.

10) **COVID-19 related absence management**

The management of a COVID-19 related absence will be managed in line with agreed procedures with the Department of Education.

11) **Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme**

The Department recognises the need for school staff wellbeing and collective self-care. Support for school staff wellbeing will be provided by Department Support Services including the PDST and CSL, as well as by the HSE's Health Promotion Team. An Occupational Health Strategy is in place as a supportive resource for individual staff members in schools. The aim of the Occupational Health Strategy is to promote the health and wellbeing of employees in the workplace, with a strong focus on prevention. The Occupational Health Strategy comprises the Employee Assistance Service and the Occupational Health Service. The Employee Assistance Service (EAS) is provided by Spectrum.Life under the logo of 'Wellbeing Together: Folláinne Le Chéile'.

Under the EAS, employees have a dedicated free-phone confidential helpline 1800 411 057 available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year providing advice on a range of issues such as wellbeing, legal, financial, mediation, management support etc. Where required, short-term counselling is available to employees and their families (over the age of 18 years and living at home). A bespoke wellbeing portal and app which offers access to podcasts and blogs on topics around wellbeing and mental health, family life, exercise and nutrition is also available. In addition online cognitive behavioural therapy is provided. As part of the services provided by Spectrum.Life a Mental Health Promotion

Manager is available to develop and deliver evidence based mental health and wellbeing initiatives to reduce stigma and improve mental health literacy and to increase engagement with the service. They will also be providing a series of webinars and presentations to promote staff wellbeing in schools as schools reopen and during the upcoming school year.

APPENDIX 1



COVID-19 Policy Statement

Dungarvan College is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our students. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. WWETB and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus. We will:

- continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our staff
- provide up to date information to our staff and students on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct hand-washing techniques
- agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan
- inform all staff and students of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the public health guidance and direction of the Department of Education
- keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- ensure staff and students engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
- implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- provide instructions for staff and students to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time
- implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice

All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions.

This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative(s), who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners.

Signed: Kevin Lewis

Date: 17 August 2020

Appendix 2 Pre-Return to Work Questionnaire COVID-19

This questionnaire must be completed by staff **at least 3 days** in advance of returning to work. It may also be sent via MS Forms.

If the answer is Yes to any of the below questions, you are advised to seek medical advice before returning to work.

Name: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Principal: _____

Date: _____

	Questions	YES	NO
1.	Do you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness or flu like symptoms now or in the past 14 days?		
2.	Have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?		
3.	Have you been advised by the HSE that you are you a close contact of a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?		
4.	Have you been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time?		
5.	Have you been advised by a doctor to cocoon at this time?		
6.	Have you been advised by your doctor that you are in the very high risk group? If yes, please liaise with your doctor and Principal re return to work.		

I confirm, to the best of my knowledge that I have no symptoms of COVID-19, am not self-isolating, awaiting results of a COVID-19 test or been advised to restrict my movements.

Please note: The school is collecting this sensitive personal data for the purposes of maintaining safety within the workplace in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The legal basis for collecting this data is based on vital public health interests and maintaining occupational health and will be held securely in line with our retention policy.

Signed: _____

Appendix 3 Lead Worker Representative – Post primary Schools

The Lead Worker Representatives in Dungarvan College are:

Names of Lead Worker Representative/s:	Contact details:
1. Mark Fitzsimons	083 8009022
2. Jason Ryan	086 124 6542

The COVID-19 Return to Work Safely Protocol is designed to support employers and workers to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The Protocol was developed following discussion and agreement between the Government, Trade Unions and Employers at the Labour Employer Economic Forum.

The Protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each workplace. The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

The purpose of this section is to set out the provisions in respect of the LWR in schools. These arrangements will operate for the 2020/21 school year and will be kept under review by the parties.

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- the [COVID-19 Return to Work Safely Protocol](#);
- the [Guidance and FAQs for Public Service Employers during COVID-19](#);
- COVID-19 Response Plan for Post primary Schools (available on the Department of Education website).

1. Collaborative Approach

Responsibility for the development and implementation of the COVID-19 Response Plan and the associated control measures lies with the Board of Management/ Education and Training Board and school management.

Strong communication and a shared collaborative approach is key to protecting against the spread of COVID-19 in schools, and looking after the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students. Adherence to the Return to Work Protocol will only be achieved if everyone has a shared obligation in implementing the measures contained within the Protocol in their place of work.

If a staff member has any concerns or observations in relation to the COVID-19 Response Plan, control measures or the adherence to such measures by staff, students or others, they should contact the LWR who will engage with school management.

2. Role of the Lead Worker Representative

The role of LWR is separate to that of the Safety Representative under the health and safety legislation. However the Safety Representative may act as the LWR if selected to do so by the staff. In summary, the role of the LWR is to:

- Represent all staff in the workplace regardless of role, and be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts;
- Keep up to date with the latest COVID-19 public health advice;

- Work collaboratively with school management to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of employees in relation to COVID-19;
- Consult with school management on the control measures required to minimise the risk of staff and students being exposed to COVID-19;
- Promote good hygiene practices, in conjunction with school management, such as washing hands regularly and maintaining good respiratory etiquette along with maintaining social distancing in accordance with public health advice;
- Assist school management with the implementation of measures to suppress COVID-19 in the workplace in line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol and current public health advice;
- Monitor, in conjunction with school management, adherence to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- Conduct reviews of safety measures that are in place to address and suppress COVID-19 in the workplace. Reviews (including an examination of the workplace) should be conducted on a regular basis (at least twice per week);
- Report any issues of concern immediately to school management and keep records of such issues and actions taken to rectify them;
- Consult with the school management on the school's COVID-19 Response Plan in the event of someone developing COVID-19 while in school including the location of an isolation area and a safe route to that area;
- Following any incident, assess with the school management any follow up action that is required;
- Consult with colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace;
- Make representations to school management on behalf of their colleagues on matters relating to COVID-19 in the workplace.

3. What can a Lead Worker Representative Do?

The LWR may consult with, and make representations to, school management on any issue of concern in relation to COVID-19. These include issues in relation to:

- Cleaning protocols and their implementation
- Physical Distancing
- Configuration/re-configuration of the school facilities, including classrooms, corridors, halls, open areas, entry and exit points, school grounds etc.
- Implementation of one-way systems in the school to ensure social distancing including when entering and exiting the school
- Hand Hygiene facilities including their location and whether they are stocked and maintained
- Hand sanitising
- Staff awareness around hand hygiene in the school
- Respiratory hygiene
- Personal Protective Equipment
- At Risk Groups
- Visitors/Contractors

4. Does a LWR have any legal responsibilities?

No. A Lead Worker Representative does not have any duties in relation to COVID-19 other than those that apply to employees generally. In other words, the LWR is not responsible for the control measures within an organisation, which remains the employer's responsibility.

5. Lead Worker Representative(s)

Every school will appoint one Lead Worker Representative.

In schools with more than 40 staff, a second Lead Worker Representative will be appointed.

6. Selection of Lead Worker Representative(s)

The school staff are entitled to select staff members for the LWR position(s). The LWR(s) represent all staff in the workplace regardless of role and must be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts. In this regard, where a school has two LWRs, the roles should be spread between teaching and non-teaching staff where feasible e.g. where there is a significant number of non-teaching staff in the school and one or more expressions of interest are received from that cohort (this will be discussed further between the parties).

The process for the selection and appointment of the LWR(s) is that management will seek expressions of interest from all staff in the first instance. A template email for this purpose is attached. If an election is necessary, all school staff have a vote to select the LWR(s).

The LWR(s) will, following selection by the school staff, be formally appointed by WWETB. The LWR(s) will be required to confirm, prior to taking up the role, that they have been provided with and have completed the requisite training and that they are fully aware of the requirements of the role.

7. Supports for the Lead Worker Representative/s

The LWR(s) shall be entitled to:

- Be provided with information and training in respect of their role. Training for the LWR(s) is available [here](#)
- Be consulted by school management on the control measures being put in place by the school to minimise the risk of being exposed to COVID-19;
- Regular communication with school management on issues related to COVID-19;
- Be informed of changes in practice arising from COVID-19 response measures;
- Have access to any risk assessments prepared or carried out in relation to COVID-19 and to details of incidents of suspected COVID-19 cases that have been notified to the HSE, where they occurred and any actions taken.
- Be provided with the necessary facilities to enable them to consult with employees or prepare any submissions or reports. These might include access to a meeting room, photocopier, communications and equipment.

Where the LWR is a teacher, the LWR will receive protected time of 2 hours per week from timetable to enable them to carry out their duties in that role. In the rare instances where the appointment of a teacher selected for the LWR would cause curricular/timetabling difficulties which cannot be resolved, school management will examine internal and external possibilities to enable the teacher's appointment as LWR. Where the matter cannot be resolved, management will set out the reasons why this is the case. In this circumstance, an alternative individual must be appointed as LWR.

Where the LWR is an SNA, 66 of the "72 hours" will be utilised by the LWR to carry out their duties in that role.

Where the LWR is a Secretary or Caretaker, a re-prioritisation of duties by school management should be carried out to afford the staff member sufficient time to carry out their duties in that role within the scope of their normal contracted hours.

8. Procedure for dealing with issues that arise

Where a COVID-19 control concern is identified by the LWR (or is notified to the LWR by a staff member), the LWR should bring this to the attention of the Principal. Action points for addressing the issue should where possible be agreed between the LWR and the Principal as a matter of urgency. Staff should be informed of the outcome. It is envisaged that issues will be resolved at school level to the maximum extent possible.

If agreement cannot be reached, the LWR should notify the Board of Management (Chairperson in the first instance)/ Education and Training Board head office of the issue. Action points for addressing the issue should where possible be agreed between the LWR and WWETB head office as a matter of urgency. Staff should be informed of the outcome.

If, having exhausted the process above, a serious issue of concern remains outstanding, the LWR may have recourse to the [Health and Safety Authority](#).

9. Glossary of Terms

- **COVID-19 Response Plan:** plan designed to support the staff and BOM/ETB in putting measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school environment. The plan details the policies and practices necessary for a school to meet the Return to Work Safely Protocol, the Department of Education plan for school reopening and to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment. COVID-19 Response Plans for Post primary Schools are available on the Department's website.
- **Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF):** the forum for high level dialogue between Government, Trade Union and Employer representatives on matters of strategic national importance - involves the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Government & Employers.
- **Return to Work Protocol:** national protocol designed to support employers and workers to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
- **Safety Representative:** Section 25 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 sets out the selection and role of the Safety Representative in the workplace. The rights of the Safety Representative are set out in legislation. (Note: A Safety Representative has rights and not duties under the 2005 Act). This role is separate to the LWR under COVID-19, but the Safety Representative may act as the LWR if selected to do so by the staff.

TEMPLATE EMAIL TO STAFF REGARDING LEAD WORKER REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Dear All,

As you will be aware, significant work and consultation has taken place to enable a full return to school from the beginning of the 2020/21 school year.

The resumption of school-based teaching and learning and the return to the workplace of staff must be done safely and in strict adherence to the advice and instructions of public health authorities and the Government.

The COVID-19 Return to Work Safely Protocol is designed to support employers and workers to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The Protocol was developed following discussion and agreement between the Government, Trade Unions and Employers at the Labour Employer Economic Forum. In addition, every school has a COVID-19 Response Plan in place.

The Return to Work Safely Protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each workplace.

The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

A copy of the school's COVID-19 Response Plan is attached and this includes further detail on the role of the Lead Worker Representative.

In this school, there are (1 or 2 – *delete as appropriate*) Lead Worker Representative positions.

Under the Protocol, the school staff are entitled to select staff members for the LWR position(s). In this regard, I am now inviting expressions of interest from staff for these positions, by return email.

The LWR(s) represents all staff in the workplace regardless of role and must be aware of specific issues that may arise in respect of different staff cohorts. Where a school has two LWRs, the roles should be spread between teaching and non-teaching staff where feasible e.g. where there is a significant number of non-teaching staff in the school and one or more expressions of interest are received from that cohort.

Training for the role will be provided.

If an election is necessary, all school staff have a vote to select the LWR(s). Further details on this process will be sent to you if this arises. Following selection by the school staff, the LWR(s) will be formally appointed. The LWR details will be sent to all staff following their appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

The current risk assessment for the school is available from the principal.

Appendix 4 Template Risk Assessment

COVID-19 Risk Template (List identifies COVID-19 as the hazard and outlines control measures required to deal with this risk)

Hazards	Is the hazard present? Y/N	What is the risk?	Risk rating H=High M=Medium L=Low	Controls (When all controls are in place risk will be reduced)	Is this control in place?	Action/to do list/outstanding controls *Risk rating applies to outstanding controls outlined	Person responsible	Signature and date when action completed
COVID-19	N	Illness	H	School Covid19 Response Plan in place in line with Department of Education guidance and the Return to Work Safely Protocol and public health advice		Follow public health guidance from HSE re hygiene and respiratory etiquette Complete School COVID-19 Policy Statement Return to Work Forms received and reviewed Undertake Induction Training Maintain log of staff, student and visitors Complete checklists as required: School Management How to deal with a suspected case Physical distancing requirements Other school specific checklist	Name of staff member	

If there is one or more High Risk (H) actions needed, then the risk of injury could be high and immediate action should be taken. Medium Risk (M) actions should be dealt with as soon as possible. Low Risk (L) actions should be dealt with as soon as practicable.

Risk Assessment carried out by:

_____ Date: / /

Appendix 5

Dungarvan College Contact Tracing Log

Name of School	Dungarvan College		School Contact Person	Danny Cunningham
Address of School	Youghal Road, Dungarvan, County Waterford		For Queries only: Phone No	058 41184
			Email	dannycunningham@wwetb.ie
Name of Visitor				Was the visit pre-arranged with the Principal? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Visit	___/___/___ /____	Time	Entry to school _____ am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>	Exit from School _____ am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>
Visitor Status	Contractor <input type="checkbox"/>	Parent/Guardian <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/> Please complete: _____	
Contact details of visitor PLEASE PRINT	Company Name <small>(if applicable)</small>			
	Address			
	Contact No.		Email Address	
	Reason for Visit			
Who the visitor met (separate line required for each person the visitor met)				
Name of Person visited				Length of time spent with each person in the school

Form adapted by Norma Crotty 27th August and put at reception

Appendix 6 Checklist for School Management

This checklist supports planning and preparation, control measures and induction needed to support a safe return to school for students, staff, parents and others.

For completion by the agreed person with overall responsibility of managing the implementation of the COVID-19 Response plan. This is likely to be the principal (with supports as agreed with the Department).

Planning and Systems

1. Is there a system in place to keep up to date with the latest advice from Government and DES, to ensure that advice is made available in a timely manner to staff and students and to adjust your plans and procedures in line with that advice?
2. Have you appointed staff member/s to the LWR position (detailed at Section 4.3 above) in accordance with the agreed protocol?
3. Have you advised staff as to has been appointed to the position of LWR?
4. Have you prepared a school COVID-19 response plan and made it available to staff and students?
5. Have you a system in place to provide staff and students with information and guidance on the measures that have been put in place to help prevent the spread of the virus and what is expected of them?
6. Have you displayed the COVID-19 posters in suitable locations highlighting the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?
7. Have you told staff and students of the purpose of the COVID-19 contact log?
8. Have you a COVID-19 contact log in place to support HSE tracing efforts if required?
9. Have you informed staff on the measures that have been put in place to help prevent the spread of the virus and what is expected of them, and provided a system for them to raise issues or concerns and to have them responded to?
10. Have you reviewed and updated risk assessments in line with Department advice to take account of any controls to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?
11. Have you updated emergency plans, in particular to take account of the COVID response plan?

Staff

12. Have you made available to each staff member a COVID-19 return-to-work form to be completed and returned 3 days before they return to the workplace? (**Template attached**)
13. Are you aware of staff members who are at very high risk under the HSE guidance on people most at risk ([HSE guidance on people most at-risk](#)) and advised them of the Department of Education's agreed arrangements for management of those staff?
14. Have you advised staff and students they must stay at home if sick or if they have any symptoms of COVID-19?
15. Have you told staff and students what to do and what to expect if they start to develop symptoms of COVID-19 while in school, including where the isolation area is?
16. Have you advised staff of the availability of the supports of the occupational health and wellbeing programme through Spectrum Life?

Training and Induction

17. Have you advised staff and students to view the Department of Education's training materials which are available online?
18. Have you taken the necessary steps to update your school induction / familiarisation training to include all information relating to COVID-19?
19. Have first aiders, if available, been given updated training on infection prevention and control re hand hygiene and use of PPE as appropriate? *(It is intended that training will be provided as part of the DES online training programme).*

Buildings / Equipment

20. If you have mechanical ventilation does it need cleaning or maintenance before the school reopens?
21. Does your water system need flushing at outlets following low usage to prevent Legionnaire's Disease?
22. Have you visually checked, or had an appropriate person check, all equipment in the school for signs of deterioration or damage before being used again?
23. Have you arranged for the school including all equipment, desks, benches, doors and frequently touched surfaces points, been thoroughly cleaned before reopening?

Control Measures in place

Hand / respiratory hygiene

24. Have you accessed supplies of hand sanitizers and any necessary PPE equipment in line with the HPSC health guidance relating to the reopening of schools, from the national framework provided by the Department? This framework close to being finalised and will be available for drawdown with guidance as to how and what to order accompanying it.
25. Are there hand washing/hand sanitising stations in place to accommodate staff, students and visitors adhering to hand hygiene measures in accordance with Department guidance?
26. Have arrangements been made for staff and students to have regular access to hand-washing/hand sanitising facilities as appropriate?
27. Are hand sanitisers easily available and accessible for all staff, students and visitors – e.g. in each classroom and at entry and exit points to school buildings?
28. Have you made arrangements to ensure hand hygiene facilities are regularly checked and well-stocked?
29. Does the alcohol-based hand sanitiser have at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol as the active ingredient?
30. Have you informed staff and students about the importance of hand washing?
31. Have you arranged for staff and students to view [how to wash their hands](#) (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) and dry them correctly through the use of the HSE video resource?
32. Have you shown staff and students how to use hand sanitiser correctly and where hand-sanitising stations are located?
33. Have you displayed posters on how to wash hands correctly in appropriate locations?
34. Have you told staff and students when they need to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser? This includes:

- before and after eating and preparing food
- after coughing or sneezing
- after using the toilet
- where hands are dirty
- before and after wearing gloves
- before and after being on public transport
- before leaving home
- when arriving/leaving the school /other sites
- after each class
- after touching potentially contaminated surfaces
- if in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms

35. Have you told staff and students of the importance of good respiratory measures to limit the spread of the virus, including?

- avoid touching the face, eyes, nose and mouth
- cover coughs and sneezes with an elbow or a tissue
- dispose of tissues in a covered bin

Physical Distancing:

36. Have you identified all available school space to be used to maximise physical distancing?

37. Have you reviewed the templates provided by the Department of Education which show options for revised layout of school rooms to meet physical distancing requirements?

38. Have you arranged to revise the layout of the rooms and furniture as per the Department guidelines?

39. Have you arranged in each room that the teacher's desk should be at least 1m (and where possible 2m) away from student desks?

40. Have you arranged in each room that students would be, at least 1m and (where possible 2m) away from each other?

41. Have you where possible and practicable assigned students to main class cohorts to minimise the risk of infection from COVID-19?

42. Have you arranged the timetable to facilitate double classes where possible and practicable?

43. Have you advised staff and students that when students are moving to an elective subject they would, where practicable be seated with members of their main class cohort?

44. Have you made arrangements to limit interaction on arrival and departure from school and in other shared areas?

45. Have you encouraged walking or cycling to school as much as possible?

46. Have you made arrangements, in so far as possible, to open additional access points to school to reduce congestion?
47. Can you provide a one system for entering and exiting the school, where practical?
48. Have you arranged for staff meetings to be held remotely or in small groups or in large spaces to facilitate physical distancing?
49. Have you taken steps to minimise rotation of staff between classes where possible?
50. Have you a system to regularly remind staff and students to maintain physical distancing?
51. Have you advised staff and students not to shake hands and to avoid any physical contact?
52. Have you stopped all non-essential travel for school activities?

Visitors to Schools

53. Have you identified the activities that involve interacting with essential visitors to schools, made arrangements to minimise the number of such visitors and put in place measures to prevent physical contact, as far as possible?
54. Are there arrangements in place to inform essential visitors to schools of the measures to help prevent the spread of infection?
55. Have you a system in place for all visitors who do need to come to the school to make appointment, arrange to contact a central point and to record their visit using the contact tracing log?

Appendix 7 Checklist for dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19

Each main class cohort should be considered a separate group for the purpose of managing suspected cases. Each teacher/staff member will be required to manage a suspected case in line with the protocol and training.

A nominated member of the school management team will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected cases have been adhered to.

Isolation Area

1. Have you identified a place that can be used as an isolation area, preferably with a door that can close?

2. The isolation area does not have to be a separate room but if it is not a room it should be 2m away from others in the room.
3. Is the isolation area accessible, including to staff and students with disabilities?
4. Is the route to the isolation area accessible?
5. Have you a contingency plan for dealing with more than one suspected case of COVID-19?
6. Are the following available in the isolation area(s)?
 - Tissues
 - Hand sanitiser
 - Disinfectant/wipes
 - Gloves/Masks
 - Waste Bags
 - Bins

Isolating a Person

7. Are procedures in place to accompany the infected person to the isolation area, along the isolation route with physical distancing from them?
8. Are staff familiar with this procedure?
9. Have others been advised to maintain a distance of at least 2m from the affected person at all times? (it is intended that this will be dealt with as part of DES online training)
10. Is there a disposable mask to wear for the affected person while in the common area and when exiting the building?

Arranging for the affected person to leave the School

11. Staff – have you established by asking them if the staff members feel well enough to travel home?
12. Student – have you immediately contacted their parents/guardians and arranged for them to collect their student? Under no circumstances can a student use public or school transport to travel home if they are a suspected case of COVID-19.
13. The affected person should be advised to avoid touching other people, surfaces and objects.
14. The affected person should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with disposable tissue(s) when they cough or sneeze, and to put the tissue in the bin.
15. Has transport home or to an assessment centre been arranged if the affected person has been directed to go there by their GP?
16. Has the affected person been advised not to go to their GP's surgery or any pharmacy or hospital?
17. Has the affected person been advised they must not use public transport?
18. Has the affected person been advised to continue wearing the face mask until they reach home?

Follow up

- 19.** Have you carried out an assessment of the incident to identify any follow-up actions needed?
- 20.** Have you advised the LWR of the incident in accordance with the agreed protocol?
- 21.** Are you available to provide advice and assistance if contacted by the HSE?

Cleaning

- 22.** Have you taken the isolation area out-of-use until cleaned and disinfected?
- 23.** Have you made arrangements to clean and disinfect any classroom space where the staff or students were located?
- 24.** Have you arranged for cleaning and disinfection of the isolation area and any other areas involved, as soon as practical after the affected person has left the building?
- 25.** Have the cleaners been trained in dealing with contaminated areas and supplied with the appropriate PPE? Online training for cleaning staff is [here](#)
- 26.**

Appendix 8 Checklist Lead Worker Representative

Checklist of questions in line with the protocol at Appendix 3 as agreed between the Department and management bodies

- 1.** Have you been s/elected by your colleagues on the staff and have you agreed with your school principal to act as a Lead Worker Representative for your school, in accordance with the process for *lead worker representative/s in schools that has been agreed centrally and is to be implemented locally*).
- 2.** Have you been provided with information and training in relation to the role of Lead Worker Representative? Training is available [here](#) and further training will be provided by WWETB.
- 3.** Are you keeping up to date with the latest COVID-19 advice from Government?
- 4.** Are you aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?
- 5.** Do you know how the virus is spread?
- 6.** Do you know how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?
- 7.** Have you watched and do you understand the online training provided by the Department of Education and have you been given induction training before returning to school?
- 8.** Have you been made aware of the control measures your school has put in place to minimise the risk of you and others being exposed to COVID-19?
- 9.** Are you helping in keeping your fellow workers up to date with the latest COVID-19 advice from Government?
- 10.** Have you completed the COVID-19 return-to-work form and given it to your school? (*DES template Return-to-Work form available*)
- 11.** Are you aware of the control measures your school has put in place to minimise the risk of you and others being exposed to COVID-19? (*Checklist for School Management available*)
- 12.** On behalf of the employer did your school principal consult with you when putting control measures in place? Control measures have been agreed centrally between the Department and education partners and will be revised as necessary. Consultation at school level should take place on any specific local arrangements necessary to implement the protocol
- 13.** Have you a means of regular communication with the principal and where applicable any other person with overall responsibility for the school COVID-19 plan?
- 14.** Are you co-operating with your school to make sure these control measures are maintained?
- 15.** Have you familiarised yourself with the cleaning requirements needed to help prevent cross contamination? (*Checklist for Cleaning and Disinfection available*)
- 16.** Have you been asked to walk around and check that the control measures are in place and are being maintained?
- 17.** Are you reporting immediately to the person with overall responsibility for the school COVID-19 plan any problems, areas of non-compliance or defects that you see?

- 18.** Are you keeping a record of any problems, areas of non-compliance or defects and what action was taken to remedy the issue?
- 19.** Are you familiar with what to do in the event of someone developing the symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?
- 20.** Are you co-operating with your school in identifying an isolation area and a safe route to that area?
(Checklist for dealing with suspected case of COVID-19 available)
- 21.** Are you helping in the monitoring and keeping under review the management of someone developing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?
- 22.** Once the affected person has left the school, are you helping in assessing what follow-up action is needed?
- 23.** Are you helping in maintaining the staff and student contact log?
- 24.** Have you been made aware of any changes to the emergency plans or first aid procedures for your school?
- 25.** Are you making yourself available to fellow staff to listen to any COVID-19 control concerns or suggestions they may have?
- 26.** Are you raising those control concerns or suggestions with your school Principal and feeding back the response to the staff member/s who raised the issue?
- 27.** Are you aware of the availability of the Spectrum Life Wellbeing Together Programme?
- 28.** Have you been provided by the Principal/ school management with the supports to which you are entitled in your role as Lead Worker Representative?
- 29.** If you are a teacher, have you been provided with the 2 hours per week of protected time off class contact hours, as provided for in the protocol?
- 30.** If you are an SNA, have you been provided with 66 of the “72 hours”, as provided for in the protocol?
- 31.** If you are a school secretary or a caretaker have your duties been re-prioritised by school management to afford you sufficient time to carry out your duties as LWR within the scope of your normal contracted hours, as provide for in the protocol?

Appendix 9 Checklist for Cleaning

1. Have you a system in place for checking and keeping up to date with the latest public health advice from Government and the Department of Education, to ensure that advice is made available in a timely manner to staff and students and to adjust your cleaning procedures in line with that advice?
2. Have you reviewed the HPSC health advice for the safe reopening of schools, in particular **Section 5.6 Environmental Hygiene**?
3. Have you explained the need for the enhanced cleaning regime to staff and students?
4. Are you aware that cleaning is best achieved using a general purpose detergent ad warm water, clean cloths, mops and the mechanical action of wiping and cleaning, following by rinsing and drying?
5. Have you sufficient cleaning materials in place to support the enhanced cleaning regime?
6. Have you provided training for cleaning staff (available [here](#)) on the enhanced cleaning regime?
7. Have you made arrangements for the regular and safe emptying of bins?
8. Are you familiar with the cleaning options for school settings set out in the HPSC health advice for schools for surfaces, toilets, cleaning equipment, PPE and waste management?
9. Are you aware that each school setting should be cleaned once per day?
10. Have you in place a system for regular cleaning of the following frequently touched surfaces?
 - Door handles,
 - Hand rails
 - Chairs/arm rests
 - Communal eating areas
 - Sinks
 - Toilets facilities
11. Have you provided cleaning materials to staff and students so that they can clean their own desk or immediate workspace?
12. Have you advised staff that they are responsible for cleaning personal items that have been brought to work and are likely to be handled at work or during breaks? E.g. mobile phone laptop and to avoid leaving them down on communal surfaces or they will need to clean the surface after the personal item is removed.
13. Have you advised staff and students to avoid sharing items such as cups, bottles, cutlery, pens
14. Have you put in place a written cleaning schedule to be made available to cleaning staff including:
 - Items and areas to be cleaned
 - Frequency of cleaning
 - Cleaning materials to be used
 - Equipment to be used and method of operation

15. Details of how to clean following a suspected case of COVID-19 are at **Section 7 of the Plan above** *(can be added here again if considered useful)*
16. If disinfection of contaminated surfaces is required, is a system in place to do this following cleaning?
17. If cleaning staff have been instructed to wear gloves when cleaning are they aware of the need to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, both before and after wearing gloves?
18. Have you a system in place for the disposal of cleaning cloths and used wipes in a rubbish bag? *Current HSE guidance recommends waste such as cleaning waste, tissues etc. from a person suspected of having COVID-19 should be double bagged and stored in a secure area for 72 hours before being presented for general waste collection.*
19. Have you ensured there is a system in place to make sure reusable cleaning equipment including mop heads and non-disposable cloths are clean before re-use?
20. Have you ensured there is a system in place to ensure that equipment such as buckets are emptied and cleaned with a fresh solution of disinfectant before re-use?

Appendix 10 Details of school-specific control measures

The following measures are in place for Dungarvan College. This section will be reviewed regularly in consultation with the Lead Worker Representative/s.

Dungarvan College COVID 19 Response Plan Information for Secondary level Teachers

The school will reopen on a staggered basis in order to help the students to come to terms with the new routines of school.

Details of this return are as follows:

Tuesday 1st Sept

6th Yr Induction 11:00-12:00

3rd Yr Induction 2:00-3:00

Wednesday 2nd Sept

1st Yr Induction 9:00-1:00

2nd Yr Induction 1:50-2:50

5th Yr Induction 3:10-3:55

Thursday 3rd Sept

1st Yr Return back full time 8:50-3:55

3rd Yr Return back full time 8:50-3:55

6th Yr Return back full time 8:50-3:55

Friday 4th Sept

2nd Yr Return back full time 8:50-1:10

5th Yr Return back full time 8:50-1:10

LCA Induction 12:00-1:00

Monday 7th Sept

TY back to school as normal from 8:50

LCA Return back full time 8:50-3:55
EROC Return back full time 8:50-3:55

PLC will return towards the end of September, exact date TBC

Communication with staff

Please keep an eye on your work email and TEAMS.

Schedule for start of year

We are presently working on this schedule. As soon as it is completed we will share with staff.

Entry to building

Teachers should come through staffroom, main entrance or PLC entrance of the school, prior to entering wash your hands at sinks provided and then sanitise your hands. The main school entrance will be accessible for people with an entry fob.

Staff will be on duty from 8:20 making sure that students go to designated tutor bases as they arrive. Hanging out on corridor will not be allowed.

As per national guidelines, all staff will wear face masks and students will be required to do so.

Staffroom and breaktimes

Due to social distancing guidelines we are limited in how many people we can have in our staffroom. In order to have more space for staff the Oval will be a staff work area. There will be strategically located work stations Oval and staffroom. We would ask all staff to remove all their items from these desks/chairs when they leave the room and to wipe down the desks with wipes provided. Please note no bags, coats, books should be left on ground or on furniture in the staffroom.

The photocopier has been moved to the Oval also. There will be no access for staff to Norma's office for photocopier use.

Use of staffroom kitchenette at breaktime and lunchtime will be challenging as we are only allowed one person in there at any given time. We advise alternative plans for breaks and lunch. We will have pick and run tea/coffee stations in staffroom kitchenette and Oval area. Please return cups to correct area for washing.

Student uniform

Students must wear full school uniform each day. On days that they have PE, they will be permitted to wear the school PE kit. As windows in rooms will be open to allow ventilation we have reminded parents that students should be wearing their school jumpers.

Students will be bringing their jackets with them to class, they should remain on the back of their chairs but if it is cold they will be allowed to wear their jackets.

Staff Toilets

The male staff toilets will now be a second female staff toilet. Our male staff will need to use the male toilets on the PLC corridor. There will be restrictions on number of people allowed in all toilets.

Breaktime 11:00

Students will remain in their 10:20 class for their 11:00am break. The tuck shop will not be open so students will be asked to bring in their own snacks. At 11:10am students will go to their next class.

Staff will be on duty on corridor, at toilets and will be supervising classrooms.

Students will be asked to wipe down desks before moving onto their next class.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Sanitiser dispensers will be installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, at the door of each classroom, etc. On entry to the school building prior to 8:50 and at end of lunch teachers will be asked to wash their hands. Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and staff are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.

FYI Handwashing and Sanitising Regime sent to parents

Time	Method
Before entering school	Wash hands
Upon entering school	Sanitiser
Before eating at lunchtime	Sanitiser or wash hands
After returning from lunch	Hand wash hands and sanitiser
Before going home	Sanitiser
*After using toilet	Handwashing

Students will be distanced insofar as is practicable, with approximately 1m distancing achieved in all rooms. Classrooms have been modified to create as much space as possible. Remember as staff we are asked to be 2m away from students and teachers.

Disinfecting wipes will be provided in all classrooms and where students have to move to a different room or desk, they will be provided with a wipe to clean their area before they leave. Teachers will be asked to do the same cleaning chair, desk, keyboard and mouse. Specific foot operated bins will be provided in each room for the disposal of wipes, masks and any other potentially contaminated item.

Teaching

As we cannot use lockers, students will not have text books with them, they will be at home. They will be used for reference and for homework. We ask teachers to use eBooks and visualisers as an alternative to books during class time. Desks have been arranged in a manner that will allow some pair and group work. Please be conscious of moving furniture and 1m distancing. Storage units have been moved from many rooms to allow space for desks, these are all now in the Oval.

We are still awaiting guidance on delivery for practical subjects.

Photocopier

The photocopier in staffroom is now in the Oval. Norma's photocopier or office will not be accessible for staff. We are looking at putting another photocopier in the Oval. Please use the wipes or IPA spray on the photocopier after each use.

Lunchtime

There will be slightly staggered lunchtimes to aid social distancing. We are still working on exact times. We are proposing a change of only a few minutes to prevent a bottle neck as people leave through the front door. This will be confirmed over next few days.

Year Group	
1 st , 2 nd Yrs	Must stay on school grounds
3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th	Permission to leave school grounds

There will still be timetabled activities for students at lunchtime. Some of these will have limited space due to the need for social distancing.

Student lunches

We will still be offering hot lunches to all students. Orders for these will be taken each morning by Michelle, to allow this to happen she will have to call to classrooms. 1st and 2nd Yrs will eat their lunches in their tutor bases. All other year groups will have their lunches distributed in Rm 9. Students are welcome to bring in their own lunches and we will have rooms set for them depending on numbers (3rd-6th Yrs).

Lockers, racks and bag drop

Students will not have access to lockers this year. They will have a reduced load of books to carry around. Some of their books will be left at home for reference and homework. Teachers will be encouraged to use eBooks and visualisers.

All coat racks have been removed, students will be asked to bring their coats to class with them and store them on the back of their chairs.

We will have no bag drop area on corridor instead pupils will leave their bag in the room that they have their last class in before break and will then collect that bag at the end of lunch.

Rooms

We are delighted to have new multi use rooms for the secondary school.

- Rm 9 has been rearranged
- Rm 33 and 34 are portacabins beside the sportshall

All rooms have been set up to have 1m social distancing for all pupils. We would ask that staff do not allow students to change any of the furniture arrangements in classes. Any staff that want to change seating arrangements need to consult Lead Worker Representatives Mark Fitzsimons or Jason Ryan.

Corridors

We have looked at having base classrooms but it isn't an option for us at present. We have a new one way system on the corridor. Students and staff should strictly follow the one-way system, walking on the left hand side. We ask that all staff encourage the students to stay moving on the corridors. Lockers, racks and toilets are not assessable during break in classes so they should be able to move along without delay.

PE

Students will have PE as normal but as we will not be using changing rooms they will be allowed come into school in their PE gear on days they have PE.

Students' Equipment and Stationery

Sharing of equipment is NOT permitted. Students should bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc. to school in their own pencil case.

Shared Equipment

For I pads and computer rooms we will have IPA spray that must be sprayed onto keyboards, mouse etc. This IPA will be in spray containers and you will have gloves beside it that should worn by students that spray it.

PPE

All pupils are being asked to wear masks. We have received guidance that pupils with SEN can wear visors instead if they follow correct protocol and contact Danny Cunningham.

Homework

Teachers are asked to give very little homework for the first week, ease the students back into school life. Unfortunately correcting homework will be a problem as at the moment we are not in a position to collect copies from students. One option is for pupils to send work in on TEAMS.

Use of school journal and communication with parents

All pupils will be given journals during their induction. They should write their homework into these and also if they have any notes from parents they should be written into the journal at the sections at the rear.

Teachers should not handle the pupils journals. Notes home should be done through vs ware. Further details on this will be discussed in our staff meetings.

Sports and co-curricular activities

We ask that staff consider lunch time activities and look at how we can continue with them in a safe manner.

Ventilation

Where practical, all internal doors should be left open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces. To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible.

Payments

Teachers shouldn't handle cash, we ask that you look at way2pay for all payments.

Collection of Students during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a student during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should ring the bell at the office to alert the secretary that they have arrived.
- The student will be called from their class to the adult by a member of staff.

No visitor can enter past the porch unless invited to do so.

Students Who Should Not Attend School

If your student is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Students who have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Students who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19.

- Students who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Students who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Students with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Students who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Students who are generally unwell.

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class

If the school is notified that a person in your student's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19

- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

Illness and Absences

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Students should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a student displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Teachers sends the student to the school office
- Norma contacts Parents/guardians immediately
- The student will remain in the designated isolation area
- The student presenting with symptoms will be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- The school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick student is a Covid-19 suspect
- Arrangements will be made with Frank for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Dungarvan College Covid 19 Response Plan

Information for Parents/Guardians

The school will reopen on a staggered basis in order to help the students to come to terms with the new routines of school.

Details of this return are as follows:

Tuesday 1st Sept

6th Yr Induction 11:00-12:00

3rd Yr Induction 2:00-3:00

Wednesday 2nd Sept

1st Yr Induction 9:00-1:00

2nd Yr Induction 1:50-2:50

5th Yr Induction 3:10-3:55

Thursday 3rd Sept

1st Yrs Return back full time 8:50-3:55

3rd Yrs Return back full time 8:50-3:55

6th Yrs Return back full time 8:50-3:55

Friday 4th Sept

2nd Yr Return back full time 8:50-1:10

5th Yr Return back full time 8:50-1:10

LCA Induction 12:00-1:00

Monday 7th Sept

TY back to school as normal from 8:50

LCA Return back full time 8:50-3:55

EROC Return back full time 8:50-3:55

First Day

Regrettably, parents/guardians may not accompany their child(ren) into the school on the first day. Students should come to the front of the school, wash their hands at sinks provided, sanitise their hands and then they can enter the school through our main entrance. Students should arrive no earlier than 8:20am and remain 2 metres apart from other students as they arrive and follow the signage and floor markings for guidance. On entry they will be told which room to go to and where to sit. As per national guidelines, all staff will wear face masks and students will be required to do so. This will be explained to students during the induction training.

Please note for Health and Safety grounds we ask parents to drop off and collect students from outside the school gates.

Uniform

Students must wear full school uniform each day. On days that they have PE, they will be permitted to wear the school PE kit. As windows in rooms will be open to allow ventilation we remind parents that students should be wearing their school jumpers.

Breakfast Club

This will not be able to run as normal but we are working on safe alternative.

Breaktime 11:00

Students will be required to bring their own drink and snacks to school for morning breaktimes. Our school shop will not be open. Reminder we are a Healthy Eating School, fizzy drinks, sweets etc are not allowed. Morning breaktimes will be spent in classrooms to reduce social distancing.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Sanitiser dispensers will be installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, at the door of each classroom, etc. On entry to the school building prior to 8:50 and at end of lunch students will be asked to wash their hands in the outdoor sinks that we have set up. Soap (which emulsifies at low temperatures) and water is available in all toilets. Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.

Handwashing and Sanitising Regime for Students

Time	Method
Before entering school	Wash hands
Upon entering school	Sanitiser
Before eating at lunchtime	Sanitiser or wash hands
After returning from lunch	Hand wash hands and sanitiser
Before going home	Sanitiser
*After using toilet	Handwashing

Students will be distanced insofar as is practicable, with approximately 1m distancing achieved in all rooms. Classrooms have been modified to create as much space as possible.

Disinfecting wipes will be provided in all classrooms and where student have to move to a different room or desk, they will be provided with a wipe to clean their area before they leave. Teachers will do the same. Students are expected to carry out this task efficiently. Specific foot operated bins will be provided in each room for the disposal of wipes, masks and any other potentially contaminated item.

Entrance and Exit Points for Specific Classes

To facilitate students arriving, entering and exiting the grounds safely, we ask that no students be present on school grounds before 8:20am. From 8:20am to 9:00am, staff will be supervising at the front entrance. During this time students must proceed directly to their tutor base. Parents must drop and collect their children off outside school gates.

Lunchtime

There will be slightly staggered lunchtimes to aid social distancing.

Year Group	
1 st , 2 nd Yrs	Must stay on school grounds
3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th	Permission to leave school grounds

There will be timetabled activities for students at lunchtime. Some of these will have limited space due to the need for social distancing.

Lunches

We will still be offering hot lunches to all students. Orders for these will be taken each morning at designated times. 1st and 2nd Yrs will eat their lunches in their tutor bases. All other year groups will have their lunches distributed in Rm 9. Students are welcome to bring in their own

lunches. We will be asking parents to remind students to eat directly from their lunch boxes and containers, and not to use the surface of the table to place their food on. is not permitted.

Lockers and coat racks

Students will not have access to lockers this year. They will have a reduced load of books to carry around. Some of their books will be left at home for reference and homework. Teachers will be using eBooks and visualisers.

All coat racks have been removed, students will be asked to bring their coats to class with them and store them on the back of their chairs.

PE

Students will have PE as normal but as we will not be using changing rooms they will be allowed come into school in their PE gear on days they have PE.

Students' Equipment and Stationery

Students should bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc. to school in their own pencil case to prevent the sharing of equipment. You will need red, blue and black pens, calculator, pencil, ruler, rubber and colours. Sharing of equipment is NOT permitted.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, computers and the equipment used for practical subjects. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products must be done by students after each use to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

PPE

We have been advised that all members of our community must wear face masks. Please make sure face masks are appropriate. Within our school community there are people who may have underlying health conditions or who live with family members with underlying health conditions and we must all do what is required to avoid COVID-19 coming into our community.

If a student forgets a face mask we will give them up to a maximum of 3 masks.

Sports and extra-curricular activities

This is currently under review.

Ventilation

Where practical, all internal doors will be left open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces. To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible.

Payments

We have an online payment system (WAY2PAY) that minimises the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents/guardians are asked to co-operate in helping to keep school staff safe by arranging for online payments through the school office.

Corridors

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. Students should strictly follow the one-way system, walking on the left hand side. Please note there will be restrictions on number in the toilets. Note toilets will be locked between classes.

Collection of Students during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a student during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should ring the bell at the office to alert the secretary that they have arrived.
- The student will be called from their class to the adult by a member of staff.

No visitor can enter past the porch unless invited to do so.

Students Who Should Not Attend School

If your student is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Students who have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Students who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Students who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Students who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Students with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Students who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Students who are generally unwell.

Students with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.

Parents should seek advice from their GP/consultant if they think their student is in a high risk group. If they are advised not to attend, then the parents should furnish the school with a letter containing words to this effect. The school will then support the student with his/her learning.

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class

If the school is notified that a person in your student's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19

- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

Illness and Absences

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Students should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a student displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately – please ensure all contact details are up to date and in use, and also provide the name and number of a contact who will be in a position to collect a student promptly.

- The student will be accompanied to the designated isolation area.
- The student presenting with symptoms will be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- The school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick student is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

We are not qualified to make a distinction between Covid 19 symptoms and symptoms of other illnesses. Be prepared. Make arrangements for your student to be collected in the event of a phone call.

FAQs

Can I send in a bottle of sanitiser or wipes with my student? Yes, but please remind your student it is for personal use and it may only be used with the permission of the teacher. There will be sufficient quantities of sanitiser throughout the school.

Must my child wear a facemask? Yes. Students with SEN may write to the principal asking permission to wear a visor as an alternative.

Will parent/teacher meetings be taking place? We are awaiting further guidance on this.

What if I need to speak with my student's teacher? Please contact the school office dungarvancollege@wwetb.ie or your student's teacher via email.

My son/daughter has hay fever and sneezes quite a bit, will he/she be sent home? If your son/daughter has an underlying condition such as hay fever (as many of us have) please make sure the class teacher is aware.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

What if my son/daughter is sent home with a suspected case of Covid 19? We would advise that you contact your GP/HSE for further advice. If a student is unwell they should under no circumstances be sent back to school.

Are parents permitted in the school building? No, not unless collecting a student presenting with Covid 19 symptoms or have made an appointment and have been invited in from the reception area/front door.

How will physical distance work in classrooms? At the start of the school year we will be distancing students as much as possible, with approximately 1m between all students in classrooms. This will not eliminate students from interacting with each other or prevent talk and discussion.

Will teachers talk to the students about Covid 19? Yes, from day one we will be re-teaching cough etiquette, hand hygiene, reinforcing the idea of social distancing/reduced physical contact, and chatting about Covid 19. The aim will be on reassurance and promoting calmness and safety.

Will the students wear their uniform? Yes, it is business as normal in relation to uniform. There is no guidance from the Department of Education or HSPC to the contrary.

Will after school activities be taking place? This matter is still under review.

Will the school be cleaned each day? Yes, and commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. Both staff and students will be responsible for cleaning their own work area each time they move to a new location.

Will this document be updated? Almost definitely. It is an evolving situation and we will most likely have to change elements of it when we observe it in practice. We will be reviewing our procedures constantly. We will also be in contact with you closer to the return to school date with more information.