



Saint Catherine of Siena National School Curragh Camp Co. Kildare

Principal: Mr Jonathan Healy Phone: 045-441458 Email: curraghprimary@gmail.com

Roll Number: 20558Q Website: www.curraghprimary.com

Covid-19 Response Plan

Background

This response plan has been drawn up in light of the Return to Work Safely Protocol, in order to facilitate staff accessing the school building on and after August 31st 2021. Such access is governed by the government's phased Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business.

This Response Plan may be expanded at a later date in order to facilitate pupils returning to school. Such expansion will be informed by public health and national guidance.

Risk Assessment & Amelioration

Exposure to COVID-19 is a public health risk which affects all citizens. The virus that causes COVID-19 disease is spread from people in fluid and in droplets scattered from the nose or mouth of an infected person when the person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or speaks. The fluid or droplets land on objects and surfaces around the infected person. Other people contaminate their hands by touching these objects or surfaces and then bring the virus into contact with their eyes, nose or mouth by touching them with their contaminated hands.

COVID-19 can also spread if droplets from an infected person land directly on the mucous membranes of the eye, nose or mouth of a person standing close to them. It is still not known how long the virus survives on surfaces in different conditions.

The period of survival may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment). Studies indicate that it can persist on surfaces for hours and up to several days in the absence of effective cleaning.

While people are most likely to pass on the infection when they have symptoms, current information suggests that some infected people spread the virus to others prior to developing or displaying symptoms themselves.



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Public health guidance is that a distance of 2m should be maintained between people to reduce the potential of transferring the virus.

Staff will familiarise themselves with the symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Where a staff member has symptoms of COVID-19, they are to self-isolate at home and contact their GP promptly for further advice. They must also communicate this to the principal. Staff are to wash & sanitize their hands at regular intervals.

Staff are required to self-regulate, in relation to any personal individual risk factors, and inform the principal that they are not attending school. In such instances, staff may attend school in their own time, when they are assured that nobody else is present. This must be notified to the principal.

The principal will keep a log of visitors on the premises, when, and for how long, to assist with contact tracing as necessary.

Assessment

The school will compile a questionnaire in line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol section E subsection 4.

Staff will complete the questionnaire, via Google Forms, at least 3 days before attending the school building. If a staff member answers Yes to any of the questions, they are strongly advised to follow the medical advice they receive or seek medical advice before returning to work.

Staff will 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 allow their safe return to the school.



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Training

The staff will participate in induction training in relation to COVID-19. This training will include the latest up to-date advice and guidance on public health: what a person should do if they develop symptoms of COVID-19; details of how the workplace is organised to address the risk from COVID-19; an outline of the COVID-19 response plan; identification of points of contact

Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

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

1. If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately;
2. Isolate the person and have a procedure in place to accompany the individual to the designated isolation area (room beside the main entrance) via the isolation route (marked with arrows), keeping at least 2m away from the symptomatic person and also making sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2m from the symptomatic person at all times;
3. If the isolation room is unavailable, the suspected person should be 2m away from others in the room;
4. If it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2m, a staff member caring for a pupil should wear a face covering or mask. Gloves should not be used as the virus does not pass through skin;
5. 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;
6. Assess whether the individual who is displaying symptoms can immediately be directed to go home/be brought home by parents who will call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home;
7. 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



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with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided;

8. 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;
 9. 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;
 10. Arrange for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved
- *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 pupil confidentiality is essential at all times. School staff should be encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contract tracing purposes. Both in and out of the school setting*

Cleaning

Should a staff member develop symptoms while on site, or be a suspected/confirmed case of COVID-19, cleaning protocols will be followed:

- Keep the door to the room closed for at least one hour before cleaning
- Do not use the room until the room has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry
- The person assigned to clean the area should avoid touching their face while they are cleaning and should wear household or disposable single use non-sterile nitrile gloves and a disposable plastic apron (if one is available)
- Open the window while you are cleaning



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- Clean the environment and the furniture using disposable cleaning cloths and a household detergent followed or combined with Chlorine based product such as sodium hypochlorite (often referred to as household bleach). Chlorine based products are available in different formats including wipes
- Pay special attention to frequently touched flat surfaces, the backs of chairs, couches, door handles, taps of washbasins, toilet handles, and any surfaces or items that are visibly soiled with body fluids
- Place all waste that has been in contact with the person, including used tissues, masks if used, in a plastic rubbish bag, along with apron and gloves, and clean your hands. Place the plastic bag into a second bin bag and tie it, then clean your hands again
- Store the bag in a safe place until the result of the test is available
- If the test result is negative, place the waste in the normal domestic waste bin
- In the event the test result is positive, Public Health will advise what to do next
- If the person spent time in a communal area or they used the toilet or bathroom facilities, then these areas should be cleaned with household detergent followed by a disinfectant (as outlined above) as soon as is practicably possible
- Once the room has been cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry, the room can be put back into use
- There is no need to clean carpets (if present) unless there has been a spillage

August 29th 2021