



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

**COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening
of
The King's Hospital School**

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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 The King's Hospital School.

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1) Introduction

The Minister for Education has published “The Roadmap for the Full Return to School” on the 27th July 2020. 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 The King’s Hospital School 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 The King’s Hospital School 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 The King’s Hospital School 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.](#)

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) 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 The King's Hospital School 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 The King's Hospital School.

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 the BOG, BOM, 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 Headmaster and chairperson of the BOM and brought to the attention of the staff, students, parents and others prior to the reopening of school. **Appendix 1.**

4) Reviewing the safe operations of Schools

The BOM aims to facilitate the continuation of school based teaching and learning and the return to the workplace of staff. The operation of schools 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 operation of a school facility and the applicable controls are outlined in this document.

Before reopening schools for the 2021/22 school year each school will need to review their current processes to ensure that the:

- Arrangements to keep up to date with public health advice, changes to any Government plans for the safe reopening of society and Department of Education updates;
- Arrangements 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 or classroom 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 after any period of closure:
 - 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.

March 2021 phased reopening of schools update:

- HPSC guidance for SEN teachers and SNAs communicated to the SEN Department in The King's Hospital School.
- Updated RTW form issued to all staff members.
- Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools communicated to staff.
- Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19 pathway documents communicated to staff.
- All induction training links sent to staff.
- Safe reopening of school information email sent to staff.

September 2021 /2022 academic year

- Updated RTW form issued to all staff members.
- Return to work induction training given to staff members.
- Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19 pathway documents updated and communicated to staff.
- Plan in place to deploy CO2 Monitors when they are sent to school in September 2021.
- Safe reopening of school information email sent to staff.

4.1) Induction Training

All King's Hospital staff will undertake and complete updated COVID-19 Induction Training on Tuesday 24th August 2021 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:

September 2021

- 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 Headmaster who is supported in this role by the BOG and BOM.

[Details of the training can be found here.](#)

An updated communication to support parents and students will happen in advance of the schools reopening on issues such as COVID-19 awareness and to help minimise the risk of introduction and spread of the virus in schools. August 2021 communication email send to Parent and Guardians.

4.2) Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)

In order to return to the workplace, staff must complete an updated Return to Work (RTW) form, which is available electronically or from Linda Toland HR Manager hr@thekingshospital.ie. 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 Headmaster 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 and campus.

Details of the working arrangements that apply to the very high risk school staff, is in accordance with those applying for the public service generally, and is detailed in the relevant Department of Education circulars available on the Department's website.

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 schools. These arrangements will continue to operate for the 2021/22 school year and will be kept under review. The process for appointment of the lead worker representative in schools has been agreed centrally between the Department of Education and the education partners.

Responsibility for the development, updating 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.

Role of the Lead Worker Representative:

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;
- In conjunction with school management, promote good hygiene practices 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;
- In conjunction with school management, monitor 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 Headmaster.

Names of Lead Worker Representative/s: Contact details:

Dymphna Morris, d.morris@thekingshospital.ie, lwr@thekingshospital.ie 01 6436570

Niall Mahon, n.mahon@thekingshospital.ie, lwr@thekingshospital.ie 01 6436542

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 The King's Hospital School is set out at **Appendix 3**.

4.4) Signage

The school will 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.

The King's Hospital School will display the posters in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms, boarding houses, toilets, and sports facilities.

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 suite of illustrative post primary classrooms layouts..

The King's Hospital School has reconfigure classrooms, Boarding Houses 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.

The King's Hospital School has reviewed 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 were documented and incorporated into the school's safety statement.

The King's Hospital School also reviewed 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 were documented and incorporated into the schools statement.

First Aid/emergency procedure

The standard First Aid/emergency procedure shall continue to apply in The King's Hospital School. 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 Headmaster. 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 in their role as data controller.

5) Infection Prevention 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, duty staff – duty staff and teacher- student, duty staff – 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.

The best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a workplace or any setting is to practice physical distancing, adopt proper hand hygiene, follow respiratory etiquette, and increase ventilation.

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 to self-isolate or restrict their movements at home if they display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and contact their family doctor to arrange a test.
- Advise staff and students to follow HSE advice if they are a close contact of suspected /confirmed case.
- If they have travelled outside Ireland: in such instance staff and students are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- 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 staff and students to cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school:
- 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 Headmaster 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

Infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild to severe, and, in some cases, can be fatal. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

Common symptoms of coronavirus included:

- A fever (high temperature – 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- A new cough – this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have any common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), self-isolate (stay in your room) and phone your family doctor straight away to see if you need a free COVID-19 test.

Getting an early diagnosis means, you can get the help you need and take steps to avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

For the complete list of symptoms, please refer to the HSE website. If you do not have symptoms, you can get a free COVID-19 test at a walk-in test centre.

COVID-19 Tracker App

COVID Tracker app is a free and easy to use mobile phone app that will:

- Alert you if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)
- Keep other app users safe by alerting them if you test positive for COVID-19
- Give advice on what to do if you have symptoms

You can download the free app from the Apple's AppStore or GooglePlay store

Employers and workers must keep themselves up to date on Public Health information as this can be updated on a regular basis. Public Health information on close contacts, casual contacts and testing is available from the HSE website.

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.

The King's Hospital School will 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.

Choosing a Hand Sanitiser

The Kings' Hospital School only uses hand sanitising products that are registered by DAFM. Hand sanitisers for use against COVID-19 must contain a minimum of 60% alcohol.

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.

5.4) Physical Distancing

Physical distancing can be usefully applied in The King's Hospital 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 i.e. if a student sustains an injury and requires first aid.

However, where possible staff should maintain a minimum of 1m 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; The King's Hospital School is 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. This remains in place for the 2021/22 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.

Staggered start and end times have been introduced for The King's Hospital School.

Staggered break times have been introduced for Students and Staff at The King's Hospital School.

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.

The King's Hospital School installed single student desks into their classrooms to maximise physical distance.

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.

We will use the designated access points that feed into the Schools one way system.

Students will follow the designated one way system and 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 guidance on face covering should be observed.

Staggered lunch break will continue for the academic year 2021/22.

Consideration has been given to the formation of additional staff spaces.

Staff meetings will 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

Physical distancing is applied in our dining areas. The King's Hospital School has assigned the Wilson Wright Hall to be used as additional dining space for our students during meal times. Staff members will use the staff room.

Staggered serving times have been implemented to align with class groupings.

The King's Hospital School has a queue management system.

Students must clean their hands before and after entering their designated dining areas.

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.

Ventilation

The Department has published guidance setting out the practical steps for good ventilation in accordance with public health advice "Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools" The guidance sets out an overall approach for schools that windows should be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g during breaks-times or lunch-times and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when class rooms are in use. The guidance provides that good ventilation can be achieved in classrooms without causing discomfort, particularly during cold weather. The department has also published guidance on how these practical steps measures can be supplemented and enhanced using Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) monitors. Links to all aforementioned guidance can be accessed on the department of education website.

5.5) Use of PPE in Schools

PPE will not be required to be worn within schools according to current occupational and public health guidance. However, for a limited number of staff, PPE will need to be used occasionally or constantly due to the nature of 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

Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid. Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment, they should apply standard precautions as per usual practice.

Reception Areas

The King's Hospital School has an enclosed reception area that has been fitted with Perspex to maintain physical distancing protocols.

Face Coverings

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 meters from other staff, parents, essential visitors, or students. 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 meters from other staff, parents, essential visitors, or students.

The wearing of face masks in general is not a substitute for other measures outlined in The King's Hospital Schools Covid-19 Response Plan, but they are to be used in addition to those protective measures, especially where maintaining physical/social distancing is difficult.

Face masks act as a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice. Face masks 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 mask when physical distance of 2m from other staff or students cannot be maintained.

All students on the post primary transport system are asked to wear face masks unless there is good reason not to do so.

The use of a visor as an alternative may be considered by the Headmaster in exceptional circumstances and where a medical certificate will need to be provided.

Medical grade masks Standard EN14638 have been made available to the SNAs and SEN teachers in The King's Hospital school.

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

Face masks 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 mask, for example persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory concerns, or tactile sensitivity.

All staff and students wearing face masks should not touch the face covering and should wash and sanitise their hands before putting on or taking off their face covering.

All staff should wash and sanitise their hands before and after helping a student put on or to adjust a face covering.

Face masks should be stored in a designated space when not in use and clearly labelled.

Face masks should be washed after every day of use.

Face masks must not be worn wet

KH multi use cloth face masks have been made available to all staff and students.

Additional disposable face masks are available for students and teachers.

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 or intimate care settings. 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.

6) Impact of COVID-19 on certain school activities

Choir/Music Performance

Choir practices/performance and music practices/performance 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.

All sports risk assessments have been completed and are available from the Director of Sport, the Head of Finance and Operations and on the Covid-19 response team google drive.

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 cleaned between use.

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.

7) Hygiene and Cleaning in Schools

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 case 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.

The King's Hospital will implement a cleaning schedule and regime where the school is cleaned at least once per day. Additional cleaning will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, hand rails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities. This regime and schedule is also in place in all our boarding houses.

When students are moving between classrooms appropriate cleaning products will be provided to enable them to wipe down their desk, chair and surface before leaving/entering the room.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Additional cleaning products are available from Eddie Keogh Operations Manager at facilities@thekingshospital.ie. 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 will 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 household gloves and a plastic apron should be worn.

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.

If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 spend time in a communal area like the dining hall, Rec area or if they used the toilet or bathroom facilities, then the area will be cleaned with household detergent followed by disinfectant (as outlined in the HPSC interim health advice) as soon as is practically possible.

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 has been identified within the school building. The possibility of having more than one person displaying signs of COVID-19 has been considered and a contingency plan for dealing with additional cases put in place. The designated isolation area is behind a closed door and located in our medical centre 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:

- See The King's Hospital Medical Centre Covid-19 pathway for Staff processes/ flow chart.
- See Student flow chart - 2020
- If the person with the suspected case is a student, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately;
- Isolate the person and follow the 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;
- Remember that the virus is spread by droplets and is not airborne so physical separation is enough to reduce the risk of spread to others even if they are in the same 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.
- He/she should continue to wear their 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;
- For boarding students follow The King's Hospital School pathway processes and procedures;
- 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.
- 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.

A house on The King's Hospital School campus has been identified and prepared in case of a boarding student testing positive for Covid-19. The appropriate plan of action is in place should such a case arise.

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 Headmaster 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.
- Follow the HSE guidance if they are identified as a close contact.
- If they have travelled outside of Ireland: in such instances staff are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- 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.
- Cooperate with any public health personnel and their school for contact tracing purpose and follow any public health advice given in the event of a case or outbreak in their school.
- Undergo any COVID-19 testing that may be required as part of mass or serial testing as advised by Public Health.

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.

The King's Hospital School has updated the required paperwork to include Des Teacher and SNA's, Privately Paid Teachers and Support staff.

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.

Prior to returning to School and as part of The King's Hospital Staff induction and trainings days on the 24th and 25th of August 2021, and through an staff email members of staff were updated about the EAP.

A bespoke wellbeing portal and app is available which offers access to podcast, blogs, live chats and videos on topics around wellbeing and mental health, family life, exercise and nutrition. In addition, online cognitive behavioural therapy is involved. 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.

APPENDIX 1

COVID-19 Policy Statement

The King's Hospital School 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. The Board of Management 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 in relation to summer provision
- 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 Niall Mahon and Dymphna Morris, who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 2 Pre-Return to Work Questionnaire COVID-19 (Updated Feb 2021)

This questionnaire must be completed by staff at least 3 days in advance of returning to work.

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: The King's Hospital School

Name of Principal: Mr. Mark Ronan Date: _____

	Questions	YES	NO
1.	Do you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature (38 degrees C or above), difficulty breathing, loss or change in your sense of smell or taste 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.	Are you awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test?		
4.	In the past 14 days, have you been in contact with a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?		
5.	Have you been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time?		
6.	Have you been advised to restrict your movements at this time?		
7.	Have you been categorised as "Very High Risk" or "High Risk" by the Occupational Health Service (OHS)		

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: _____

If your situation changes after you complete and submit this Return to Work Form, please inform your employer.

Further information on people at very high risk (extremely vulnerable) or high risk from Covid-19 can be found at www.gov.ie

Details of current arrangements for travel overseas can be found set out at www.gov.ie

Appendix 3 Lead Worker Representative – The King’s Hospital School

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 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

There are two Lead Worker Representatives in The King’s Hospital School. 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 the BoM. 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 – See LWR training developed by the DES.
- 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 Headmaster. Action points for addressing the issue should where possible be agreed between the LWR and the Headmaster 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) of the issue. Action points for addressing the issue should where possible be agreed between the LWR and the BoM 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 The King's Hospital School 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.

Headmasters email to staff regarding Lead Worker Representative appointment process.

Dear Colleagues

Following on from my update regarding School reopening, The Return to Work Safely Protocol provides for the appointment of a Lead Worker Representative (LWR) in each school. 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 school.

A copy of the DES COVID-19 Response Plan is linked here, and this includes further detail on the role of the Lead Worker Representative.

In this school, there are 2 Lead Worker Representative positions. Under the Protocol, the school staff are entitled to select staff members for the LWR positions.

In this regard, I am now inviting expressions of interest from staff for these positions, by email to vacancies@thekingshospital.ie not later than Friday 14th August.

The LWRs 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 support staff where feasible e.g. where there is a significant number of support 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 LWRs. Further details on this process will be sent to you if this arises.

Following selection by the school staff, the LWRs will be formally appointed. The LWR details will be sent to all staff following their appointment.

Yours,

Mark

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal

The King's Hospital School

Palmerstown, Dublin 20, D20 V256

D: +353 1 643 6500

E: headmaster@thekingshospital.ie

W: www.kingshospital.ie

September 2021

Appendix 4 Risk Assessment Sample Template used in The King's Hospital School



Appendix 4 Risk
Assessment Sample T

Appendix 5 Contact Tracing Log Please attach a copy of Contact tracing log used in KH.



Appendix 5 Contact
Tracing Log Please at

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.

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?
 - a. Information will be distributed to Staff, Students and Parent by the Headmaster.
2. Have you appointed staff member/s to the LWR position (detailed at Section 4.3 above) in accordance with the agreed protocol?
 - a. Yes.
3. Have you advised staff as to who has been appointed to the position of LWR?
 - a. Yes.
4. Have you prepared a school COVID-19 response plan and made it available to staff and students? Department of Education guidance and templates provided
 - a. Yes.
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?
 - a. Yes.
6. Have you displayed the COVID-19 posters in suitable locations highlighting the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?
 - a. Yes.
7. Have you told staff and students of the purpose of the COVID-19 contact log?
 - a. Yes.
8. Have you a COVID-19 contact log in place to support HSE tracing efforts if required?
 - a. Yes.
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?

- a. Yes. Emails to staff, Covid response team, also set up lwr@thekingshospital.ie email
- 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?
 - a. Yes, risk assessments completed for day school and boarding.
- 11. Have you updated emergency plans, in particular to take account of the COVID response plan?
 - a. Yes Health and Safety statement updated.

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)
 - a. Yes, records held in the HR Department.
- 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?
 - a. Yes.
- 14. Have you advised staff and students they must stay at home if sick or if they have any symptoms of COVID-19?
 - a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.
- 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?
 - a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.

Documented process flow chart sent to all staff by the school nurses, See The King's Hospital Medical Centre Covid-19 pathway for Staff processes/ flow chart and the Student flow chart - 2020

- 16. Have you advised staff of the availability of the supports of the occupational health and wellbeing programme through Spectrum Life?
 - a. Yes.

Training and Induction

- 17. Have you advised staff and students to view the Department of Education's training materials which are available online?
 - a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.
- 18. Have you taken the necessary steps to update your school induction / familiarisation training to include all information relating to COVID-19?

- a. Yes.
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).
- a. Yes, The school have a 24x7 Nursing team.

Buildings / Equipment

20. If you have mechanical ventilation does it need cleaning or maintenance before the school reopens?
- a. Yes
21. Does your water system need flushing at outlets following low usage to prevent Legionnaire's Disease?
- a. Confirmed done by Operations.
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?
- a. Confirmed done by Operations.
23. Have you arranged for the school including all equipment, desks, benches, doors and frequently touched surfaces points, been thoroughly cleaned before reopening?
- a. Confirmed done by Operations.

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.
- a. Confirmed done by Operations.
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?
- a. Yes, in both school and boarding houses.
26. Have arrangements been made for staff and students to have regular access to hand-washing/hand sanitising facilities as appropriate?
- a. Yes.
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?

- a. Yes, in both school and boarding houses.
28. Have you made arrangements to ensure hand hygiene facilities are regularly checked and well-stocked?
- a. Yes, in both school and boarding houses.
29. Does the alcohol-based hand sanitiser have at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol as the active ingredient?
- a. Operations to confirm.
30. Have you informed staff and students about the importance of hand washing?
- a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.
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?
- a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.
32. Have you shown staff and students how to use hand sanitiser correctly and where hand-sanitising stations are located?
- a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.
33. Have you displayed posters on how to wash hands correctly in appropriate locations?
- a. Yes.
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
- a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.
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

- a. Yes, part of the staff training and induction process.

Physical Distancing:

- 36. Have you identified all available school space to be used to maximise physical distancing?
 - a. Yes.
- 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?
 - a. Yes.
- 38. Have you arranged to revise the layout of the rooms and furniture as per the Department guidelines?
 - a. Yes.
- 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?
 - a. Yes. The King's Hospital School has also installed perspex screens at teacher's desks.
- 40. Have you arranged in each room that students would be, at least 1m and (where possible 2m) away from each other?
 - a. Yes.
- 41. Have you where possible and practicable assigned students to main class cohorts to minimise the risk of infection from COVID-19?
 - a. Yes.
- 42. Have you arranged the timetable to facilitate double classes where possible and practicable?
 - a. Yes.
- 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?
 - a. Yes.
- 44. Have you made arrangements to limit interaction on arrival and departure from school and in other shared areas?
 - a. Yes.
- 45. Have you encouraged walking or cycling to school as much as possible?
 - a. Yes.
- 46. Have you made arrangements, in so far as possible, to open additional access points to school to reduce congestion?
 - a. Yes.

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

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?
- a. Yes.
54. Are there arrangements in place to inform essential visitors to schools of the measures to help prevent the spread of infection?
- a. Yes – All visitors must report to the reception area..
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?
- a. Yes.

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.

Please see the following: The King's Hospital Medical Centre Covid-19 pathway for Staff processes/ flow chart and the Student flow chart – 2020



Student Flowchart
2020.pdf



The King's Hospital
Medical Centre – Cov

Isolation Area

1. Have you identified a place that can be used as an isolation area, preferably with a door that can close?
 - a. Yes.
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.
 - a. The King's Hospital School has a separate isolation area.
3. Is the isolation area accessible, including to staff and students with disabilities?
 - a. Yes.
4. Is the route to the isolation area accessible?
 - a. Yes.
5. Have you a contingency plan for dealing with more than one suspected case of COVID-19?
 - a. Yes.
6. Are the following available in the isolation area(s)?
 - Tissues
 - Hand sanitiser
 - Disinfectant/wipes
 - Gloves/Masks
 - Waste Bags
 - Bins
 - a. Yes.

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?
 - a. Yes.
8. Are staff familiar with this procedure?
 - a. Yes. Plus The King's Hospital School has 24 x7 nursing team.
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)
 - a. Yes.
10. Is there a disposable mask to wear for the affected person while in the common area and when exiting the building?
 - a. Yes.

Checklist (11-25) below exists in the following The King's Hospital Medical Centre Covid-19 pathway for Staff processes/ flow chart and the Student flow chart – 2020 – See above

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? (It is intended to provide online training for cleaning staff. Appropriate PPE will be available to schools through the national procurement process which schools can access in line with the guidance which will be provided shortly)

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 the Headmaster 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).
 - a. Yes.
2. Have you been provided with information and training in relation to the role of Lead Worker Representative? (Training for this role is currently being explored with the HSA).
 - a. Yes, it was part of the DES training.
3. Are you keeping up to date with the latest COVID-19 advice from Government?
 - a. Yes.
4. Are you aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?
 - a. Yes.
5. Do you know how the virus is spread?
 - a. Yes.
6. Do you know how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?
 - a. Yes.
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?
 - a. Staff training was completed on 27th August 2020. LWR training was completed the first week back in 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?
 - a. Yes, part of the staff training on the 27th August 2020.

9. Are you helping in keeping your fellow workers up to date with the latest COVID-19 advice from Government?
 - a. Yes
10. Have you completed the COVID-19 return-to-work form and given it to your school? (DES template Return-to-Work form available)
 - a. Yes.
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)
 - a. Yes
12. On behalf of the employer did your Headmaster 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
 - a. Yes – Temporary LWR in place when school was preparing response plan in June and July. LWR were appointed as School reopened.
13. Have you a means of regular communication with the Headmaster and where applicable any other person with overall responsibility for the school COVID-19 plan?
 - a. Yes, Weekly LWR meetings.
14. Are you co-operating with your school to make sure these control measures are maintained?
 - a. Yes.
15. Have you familiarised yourself with the cleaning requirements needed to help prevent cross contamination? (Checklist for Cleaning and Disinfection available)
 - a. Yes
16. Have you been asked to walk around and check that the control measures are in place and are being maintained?
 - a. Yes
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?
 - a. Yes.
18. Are you keeping a record of any problems, areas of non-compliance or defects and what action was taken to remedy the issue?
 - a. Yes, part of the weekly LWR meetings and review of the action log.
19. Are you familiar with what to do in the event of someone developing the symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?

- a. Yes.
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)
- a. Yes, Isolation room set up prior to return to school.
21. Are you helping in the monitoring and keeping under review the management of someone developing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?
- a. Yes
22. Once the affected person has left the school, are you helping in assessing what follow-up action is needed?
- a. TBC
23. Are you helping in maintaining the staff and student contact log?
- a. Yes.
24. Have you been made aware of any changes to the emergency plans or first aid procedures for your school?
- a. Yes.
25. Are you making yourself available to fellow staff to listen to any COVID-19 control concerns or suggestions they may have?
- a. Yes.
26. Are you raising those control concerns or suggestions with your Headmaster and feeding back the response to the staff member/s who raised the issue?
- a. Yes.
27. Are you aware of the availability of the Spectrum Life Wellbeing Together Programme?
- a. Yes.
28. Have you been provided by the Headmaster/ school management with the supports to which you are entitled in your role as Lead Worker Representative?
- a. Yes.
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?
- a. Yes.
30. If you are an SNA, have you been provided with 66 of the "72 hours", as provided for in the protocol?
- a. N/A

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?
- a. N/A

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?
 - a. Yes.
2. Have you reviewed the HPSC health advice for the safe reopening of schools, in particular Section 5.6 Environmental Hygiene?
 - a. Yes.
3. Have you explained the need for the enhanced cleaning regime to staff and students?
 - a. Yes, part of staff training on the 26th August 2020.
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?
 - a. Yes.
5. Have you sufficient cleaning materials in place to support the enhanced cleaning regime?
 - a. Yes.
6. Have you provided training for cleaning staff on the enhanced cleaning regime? (DES intends to provide online training for cleaning staff)
 - a. Yes. Current school contractor has completed training.
7. Have you made arrangements for the regular and safe emptying of bins?
 - a. Yes.
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?
 - a. Yes.
9. Are you aware that each school setting should be cleaned once per day?
 - a. Yes.

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
- a. Yes.
11. Have you provided cleaning materials to staff and students so that they can clean their own desk or immediate workspace?
- a. Yes.
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.
- a. Yes.
13. Have you advised staff and students to avoid sharing items such as cups, bottles, cutlery, pens
- a. Yes.
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
- a. Yes.
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)
- a. Yes.
16. If disinfection of contaminated surfaces is required, is a system in place to do this following cleaning?
- a. Yes.
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?
- a. Yes.
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.

a. Yes.

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?

a. Yes.

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?

a. Yes.

Useful link:

HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre access available here www.hpsc.ie