**Covid-19 Risk Assessment**

Covid-19 is a new illness that can affect a peso lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

Legislation under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 requires health surveillance to be carried out based on risk assessment. Employers are required to undertake a risk assessment with regard to Covid-19 and potential workplace exposure where the nature of work poses an occupational exposure health risk to Covid-19.

This risk assessment is designed to identify suitable control measures to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 infection. Risk assessments need to be regularly reviewed and updated and be based on the current best practice in relation to infection prevention and control.

**What is the risk? Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus**

Key Challenge: A key challenges for schools during this pandemic is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for students/students and where teachers feel able to engage with students in a way that supports their learning.

Transmission: Being a respiratory virus, Covid-19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets, with person-to-person contact appearing to be the main method of transmission. The virus can also survive on contaminated surfaces, possibly for up to several days. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission (when a person is displaying no symptoms) occurs.

Vaccination: There are no vaccines available to date.

Who Might be harmed? Trustees, Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principal, Teachers, Staff, Students, Visitors, Contractors, Parents / Guardians.

Covid-19 - Primary Symptoms: Fever (higher temperature of 38 degrees C. (100.4 degrees F.) or above - Cough which can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough - shortness of breath or breathing difficulties - loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Human Health Risk: mild, moderate, severe or fatal. Older adults, or those with underlying medical conditions appear to be at a higher risk of developing more serious complications from Covid-19 illness.

This Risk Assessment has been prepared in response to the emerging risks associated with Covid-19 pandemic.

Note: Staff, parents and students (as age appropriate) should understanding the benefits and risks of education and social interaction and that it is not possible to guarantee that infection can be prevented in any setting either in an education centre, at home or in any other setting where people interact with other people.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Controls implemented to mitigate against Risk of Spreading Covid-19** |
| Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the School environment  Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the School environment  Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the School environment  Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the School environment | The risk is of spread of infection exists in all interpersonal interactions such as staff-contractor, student-contractor, student-student, teacher -teacher, and teacher-student and is not limited to the classroom and requires to be managed in all settings within Coláiste Nano Nagle. This risk is mitigated through:   * All staff, contractors, students, and essential visitors / contractors being required to wear facial coverings while on school premises * Gel sanitisers located at entrances and exits * Display of Covid-19 Information Signage provided by the DES throughout the school * Covid-19 Induction Training for all staff (Note: All staff have been requested to watch the DES Post Primary Induction Video before returning to school and will also engage in onsite training before students return to school.) * Covid-19 Induction Training for all students * Encouraging good hand hygiene technique, respiratory hygiene and social distancing * The implementation of a Covid-19 Policy and Response Plan * Provision of Covid-19 presentations for staff, students, parents and guardians. * Prohibiting of social physical contact, hand to hand greetings/hugs. * Promotion of awareness of COVID-19 and it’s symptoms among staff, parents/guardians and students with age appropriate posters, email/text communications * Heightened awareness by staff, parents/guardians and students (age appropriate) on how to protect themselves and each other as well as how to recognise and report symptoms of COVID-19 infection * The exclusion of staff, student, visitors and contractors who are ill * Requirement that staff/students who experience symptoms of COVID-19 or other acute infectious disease are not to attend school, to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation. * Requirement that staff members are not to present for work if they have been identified by HSE as a contact of a person with Covid-19 and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement. * Requirement that staff members/students who develop symptoms at school to bring this to the attention of their manager/teacher/SNA promptly and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation * Advice to parents not to bring their children to school if the child has symptoms of a viral respiratory infection or if there is someone in the household suspected or known to have Covid-19. * Advice to parents not to bring their children to school if they have been identified as Covid-19 contacts * Advice to parents that the school reserves the right to decline entry to students who appear to have fever or respiratory tract infection. * Ensuring students (as appropriate) are aware of the reason why they should not attend if they have respiratory symptoms. * Ensure students are aware that if they develop signs or symptoms when at school to let their teacher know * Ensuring everyone who entering the school/classroom performs hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser. * Teachers required to maintain social distance requirement where possible when dealing with students. * Teachers taking measures to avoid close contact at face to face level such as remaining standing rather than sitting beside/crouching down * class space reconfigured to maximise physical distancing (where possible) * Rooms will have adequate ventilation. Doors/windows will be opened to allow air to circulate whenever feasible. * Avoidance of situations that require people to sit or stand in direct physical contact with other people. * Lockers removed to avoid students congregating * Waist bags to be given to students for face mask and PPE * Students to wear PE uniform on PE day to prevent congregating in bathrooms * Morning and lunch breaks staggered * Teacher’s desk (where possible) to be placed at least 2 metres away from students’ desks * Where students need to move about within the classroom to perform activities (for example to access a shared resource) this is to be organised to the greatest extent possible so as to minimise congregation around the point of access to the shared resource. * Students and teachers are to refrain from sharing of personal items such as pens and other writing materials, tablets and phones. * All teachers, other staff and students are to avoid behaviours that involve hand to mouth contact (putting pens/pencils in the mouth etc.) * Where teaching and learning involves use of keyboards or tablets the contact surfaces of the devices are required to be cleaned by user before use and when finished with the keyboard or device and hand hygiene encouraged. * In the event of sub-groups being required within a class for group work, to the greatest extent possible the same students will generally be in the same group, although movement between groups may be necessary in the event it is necessary to address tensions between students. * When students have to move to an elective subject they are required to move quickly into the new class and are required to be seated with members of their class cohort, observing as social distancing where possible. * Hand washing and/or sanitising is required when moving between classes by both teacher and students. * Students and Teachers required to maintain 2 metres physical distance within the school where possible * Social distancing is required between people congregating at school gates * Students are required to go straight to their classroom upon arrival at school * Implementation of a ‘No Hand shaking policy’. * Requirement to avoid gathering within the school at the beginning or end of the school day. * Protocol in place in the event a student or teacher or contractor should develop symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day. * Communication of risks to teachers, staff, students, parents / guardians. * Advice to teachers, staff, students, parents / guardians of the need to stay at home if showing symptoms of Covid-19 or if in contact with others with symptoms of Covid-19 * Regular cleaning and sanitiser of workplace and communal equipment * Use of PPE (gloves/masks) provided when dealing with and isolating Covid-19 suspected symptomatic person. * Sanitisation of shared equipment/ areas. * Increased cleaning and disinfecting of high-risk objects and surfaces schedule. Such as door handles, handrails, light switches, reception area, toilets, communal areas etc. * Appointment of Covid-19 Lead Worker representatives * Appointment of Covid-19 Manager * Cancelling of full year group assemblies within the school. * Deliveries arranged, where possible, arranged between 8 am and 8.30 am. * The school will conduct online meetings or small group meetings in place of large group meetings where applicable / possible * Where face to face meetings are necessary, the length of the meeting and the numbers attending the meeting is to be kept to a minimum * One-way system implemented within the school where possible * Staff and students instructed to walk on the right-hand side of corridors to aid traffic flow and avoid contact with others where possible * Informal gatherings on corridors / stairs / communal areas when entering, moving about or exiting the school are prohibited * Unnecessary gatherings of staff at the beginning and termination of the school’s day is prohibited * The sharing of educational material has been minimised as much as possible * Classrooms have been reconfigured to maximise physical distancing * Teachers and students are required to wear face masks in school where social distancing is not possible (Visors to be used in certain limited situations) * Essential visitors/contractors are required to make an appointment prior to visiting the school * All visitors must sign contract tracing log * Staff and students have been instructed to observe social distancing at all times. * Perspex sheeting has been installed in reception hatches and offices. * Employees are required to clean and sanitise their workstations / areas at the commencement and at the termination periods of their working day / period / area including equipment, etc. * All official business trips and face-to-face interactions been reduced to the absolute minimum * First Aid responders in the school will be trained on infection prevention and control principles, including performance of hand hygiene and appropriate use of personal protective equipment when delivering first aid. * Flushing of the school water systems has taken place to prevent any potential for Legionnaires’ disease * All keyboards of computers have been fitted with covers to aid cleaning and prevent the spread of Covid-19 * Partitions placed in library and gym to optimise facilities * Library will now be used as a classroom. Former staff workroom has also been repurposed as a classroom. * Double desks in general classrooms have been removed and replaced by single desks and floor markings to ensure one metre distance |
| Risk of Covid-19 to vulnerable high-risk persons | * Wearing of Non-medical masks – The wearing of non-medical masks may reduce the transmission of Covid-19 from individuals who may be infected with Covid-19 virus (i.e. asymptomatic) * Remote teaching learning facilities may be implemented in the event of a student(s) self-isolating at home (where applicable) * Remote teaching learning facilities may be implemented in the event of staff being required to work from home |
| Students with Special Educational Needs | * Arrangements in place with parents/guardians regarding the necessity for highlighting awareness of signs, symptoms or changes which might suggest illness / Covid-19 infections so as to ensure students do not attend school where symptoms are present. * Teachers and staff awareness of the signs, symptoms or changes which might suggest illness / Covid-19 infections so as to ensure teachers do not attend school where symptoms are present. * Assistance with hand hygiene for students who may be unable to wash their hands themselves. * Cleaning student’s aids and appliance and/ or medical equipment etc. * Teachers and staff using facial coverings and other required PPE equipment in circumstances where physical distancing is not possible. Face Visors used in certain limited situations. * Teachers and staff performing regular hand hygiene when working between different students. |
| Risk of hand sanitisers solutions being ingested - toxic | * Students to be monitored to ensure that they do not accidently ingest hand sanitisers – this risk is mitigated through the provision of instruction on effective hand hygiene technique to teachers, SNA, staff, contractors and students. |
| Risks of slips or falls due to spillage of hand sanitisers at dispenser locations. | * Care will be taken to clean up any hand sanitiser spills to prevent risk of falls. |
| Risks associated with visitors to school | * Visitors to the school are not permitted without prior arrangement with a specific contact point (for example the school office) and are subject to the same controls that apply to staff, students and contractors entering the school. * All visitors must sign a contract tracing log book * Physical distancing of 2 metres to be maintained with visitors (where possible) * Visits are arranged to ensure that congregation of parents in waiting areas is avoided by invited them to remain in their car until the teacher is ready to meet them (as applicable). * Implementation of alternative means of communication other than face to face meetings |
| Canteen | * Canteen is closed at morning break and arrangements are in place for distribution of school lunches at lunch time so as to avoid congregations of students |
| Hallways / Stairs | * Requirement for staff and students when passing another person in a corridor or stairwell that they are required to avoid any physical contact or participation in informal group discussions. * In the event of a narrow corridor one person to use it at a time where possible * Walk on the right-hand side of corridors when moving around the school |
| Administration / Offices | * Reception area is occupied by 1-2 secretaries in the school, the office space is large enough to allow for social distancing to be observed. Receptions are covered with a glass sliding window. Perspex sheeting which contains a hatch has also been installed. |
| Yard / Outside Areas | * Additional seating benches are being made for the red walk and raised area outdoors to allow for more outdoor seating. * Students and Staff are required to adhere to relevant social distancing requirements when engaging or returning from break times. * Students and Staff are required to perform hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities * Minimising the sharing of equipment and requiring its cleaning before and after use. |
| Specialised Classroom | * Students are encouraged to have their own equipment required for specialised subjects * Shared electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards are required to be cleaned before and after use in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. * Where practical each student will have their own dedicated schoolbooks * Textbooks that are shared to be covered in a wipeable plastic covering that can be wiped with a suitable household cleaning agent between uses. |
| Lifts (Where applicable) | * Where practicable only one person to use lift at a time (unless user requires assistance) |
| School / Sporting Related Activities | * Conducting an up to date risk assessment in relation to the particular activity (e.g. after school study, homework club) or sport so as to identify what additional measures are required to reduce / mitigate the risks. * Gym rental is suspended. |
| Poor Hand Hygiene | * Information provided to staff and students as to why hand hygiene is so important, when to wash their hands and how to wash their hands. * The promotion of good hand hygiene and the display Hand Hygiene Posters throughout the school. * Provision for hand hygiene through hand washing or the use of a hand sanitiser. * Provision of hand sanitiser dispensers at entry and exit points of schools and classrooms. * Provision of access to hand washing facilities after activities that are likely to soil hands for example gardening or certain sporting activities as hand sanitiser does not work on dirty hands. * Provision of social distancing when using hand hygiene facilities including wash hand basins so as to avoid congregation of people waiting to use wash hand basins and hand sanitiser. * Hand washing basins – decommissioning of certain hand washing basins so as to ensure social distancing. * Provision of adequate hand washing facilities to meet the needs of the school population * Location of foot operated pedal bins near wash basins for disposing of paper towels * Topping up of hand sanitisers, soap dispenser so as to encourage school population to use them * The provision of air hand dryers and paper towels are used for hand drying within the school following hand washing * Displaying of posters adjacent to washing facilities demonstrating hand washing techniques |
| Toilets | * Students are required to comply with social distancing regulations when using toilet facilities * Toilets, wash hand basins and surrounding areas cleaned daily and whenever there is visible soiling. * Cleaning staff inspection of toilets and hand washing facilities at regular intervals |
| Cleaning | * Cleaning staff received updated information and training in relation to cleaning and sanitising areas in relation to Covid-19 virus. This included watching COVID 19 cleaning video supplied by the DES * Cleaning schedules have been increased in relation to the cleaning of high use areas / surfaces in the school * Employees are required to clean and sanitise shared equipment at the commencement and termination of their use. * Cleaning station in each classroom |

***Note: This is a living document and will be updated as required.***