



Roadmap for reopening Maria Immaculata Community College Dunmanway

Guidelines for Students/Parents/Guardians

Updated 15th February 2021

Coronavirus COVID-19

If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movement for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on www.dhs.ie

How to Prevent

- Wash** your hands with soap and water and often to avoid contamination
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissues
- Avoid** touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stop** shaking hands, hugging, kissing, or greeting others
- Distance** yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other people, especially those who might be unwell

All people are advised to:

- Reduce social interactions
- Keep a distance of 2m between you and other people
- Do not shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit hse.ie or phone HSE Line: 1850 24 1850

Symptoms

Fever (High Temperature) • A Cough • Shortness of Breath • Breathing Difficulties

For daily updates visit

www.dhs.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

Preparations are continuing at pace for the reopening of MICC following the recent closure of our school building. We are extremely proud of the great efforts made by our students and staff in ensuring learning and teaching continues online through Microsoft Teams throughout this period.

I am including here some updates regarding changes we are making. In the current climate everything is subject to change dependent on advice from the Department of Education

Personal responsibility

Our overarching objective is to keep Covid-19 out of our school. If we can achieve this objective then the virus cannot spread within our school. Each member of our school community has a personal responsibility to do the right thing through wearing a mask correctly (i.e. over the nose and under the chin), following correct hand hygiene procedures, following correct respiratory etiquette and maintaining social distancing. We expect that everyone will take that personal responsibility seriously and maturely and cooperate fully with the measures we have introduced.

Students and staff **must not** come to school if they are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, are close contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19 or have travelled abroad in the recent past. All information regarding these measures is available from www.hse.ie

Opening schedule

This is our revised opening schedule:

Monday 22nd February: Students in Rang Sean and Rang Sinead

Monday 1st March: 6th Year Students

Monday 15th March: 5th Year Students

Monday 12th April: All remaining year groups

Cleaning

We are very fortunate with the excellent cleaning regime that has always been in place here in MICC. In conjunction with Apleona our Facilities Management Company, the school received a deep clean over the Christmas holidays. Apleona continue to ensure the cleaning of our school is above and beyond the required standards.

All members of the school community have a duty to ensure that rubbish, etc is placed in the correct bins.

Face masks

In accordance with national guidelines face masks **MUST** be worn. Face masks worn correctly are a requirement in attendance in MICC. It is advised that **face masks** provide the best protection against the spread of COVID-19 and therefore all students and staff **must** wear a face mask. In accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Education students will maintain a distance of 1 metre within the classrooms in MICC. Therefore students **MUST** wear a mask at all times in our school.

It is advised that students would have a number of facemasks for use during the day. This is to allow for changing of the mask at break times and at other times when face masks may become wet. Students should store used facemasks in a sealed plastic bag until they return home and either dispose of them or wash them if appropriate.

School Uniform

Full school uniform must be worn. Only on the day that students have PE they will be allowed to wear suitable PE clothes i.e. tracksuit and t-shirt with top/school fleece for the full day as our changing rooms will not be in operation. Students **MUST NOT** wear PE clothes on days that they do not have PE.

On all other days students must wear their full school uniform. The school uniform is available for purchase locally from Crowley's, The Square, Dunmanway. Only **standard navy school trousers or navy knee length school skirt** and fully **black shoes** are acceptable.

As windows will be open in order to facilitate proper ventilation of classrooms it is advised that students do wear additional layers of clothing to keep warm. These layers can be worn under their correct school uniform.

It is important to note that non uniform items will not be accepted and alternative colours and styles will not be allowed. No facial piercings are allowed. One stud earring only in each ear. We appreciate parental support in ensuring that this doesn't become an issue.

Access to the school building

Access to the school building will be **strictly** on an appointment basis. ***In exceptional circumstances*** should you require to collect a student during the school day you are asked to ring the office (0238856030) when you are outside and the admin staff will arrange for the student to be called from class.

Punctuality

In light of the current situation, students arriving late to school cannot be facilitated. Students must be in school on time. This is to ensure that our contact tracing logs are accurate should they be required. **We expect everyone's cooperation in this regard.** Early leaving will not be accommodated except in exceptional circumstances. It is important that all students maximise their time in class throughout the school year.

Base classrooms

Students will continue to have a base classroom for tutorial and for subjects that do not require a specialist classroom. Students are asked to sit at the same desk when in these classroom. This will minimise touch points for students and they are requested to sit near other students from their base class when in option subjects. Teachers will be maintaining seating plans for each room and students are expected to cooperate with this.

One Way System

In simple terms on the ground floor movement will be from the main entrance near the office towards the back door and in the opposite direction upstairs. We would ask that all students cooperate with this system and make their way to their next classroom as quickly as possible. In certain circumstances teachers may advise that in order to proceed swiftly to the next class it may be possible to walk against the normal flow of students.

Canteen Facilities

Our canteen will function but may not be able to provide the same range of items as it did before. Students will be expected to form an orderly queue in single file and maintain a distance of 1 metre while wearing their masks.

Students bringing their own lunchboxes are asked to have them clearly labelled. Students are also asked to bring their own bottled water as the water fountains will not be available for use.

Hand Sanitisers

Hand sanitiser dispensers are available around the corridors. Hand sanitiser will also be available in each classroom. Wipes will be available in practical rooms to wipe down equipment prior to use and also at the end of each class. It would be good practice for students to wipe down their desk and chair when they enter a classroom with the wipes they have brought with them. Students are also requested to wash their hands during the school day.

Suspected Case

If a member of your household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (Check HSE website to keep up to date on symptoms) then any student in that household **MUST NOT** attend school until cleared to do so by medical personnel.

If a student displays signs or symptoms of COVID-19 while in school they will be taken to our isolation room and we will contact parents/guardians to come and collect them immediately. You must make contact with your GP and follow their advice from that point. If a case is confirmed in the school the HSE protocols will take over regarding contact tracing, etc.

If a student does become a confirmed case, you are not obliged to inform the school. Should you wish to do so our experience has been that this speeds up contact tracing and helps mitigate against increased exposure for others. All information will of course be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Remote Learning

Until such time as all year groups are back in the building remote learning and teaching will continue for those year groups asked to remain at home. In the event that students are required to remain at home teachers will do their best to ensure that resources and class materials are uploaded to Microsoft Teams to support the student while they are required to remain at home.

Returning from travelling abroad

As you are aware, the Department of Foreign Affairs has a general COVID-19 travel advisory in operation advising people to avoid all non-essential travel until further notice. The Irish health authorities also require anyone coming into Ireland, apart from Northern Ireland, to self-isolate for 14 days, upon arrival.

Nut Allergy

MICC is a nut-free school as some members of our school community have nut allergies.

Conclusion

Should you have any queries or suggestions to make please email us on miccinfo@corketb.ie

We look forward to welcoming all of our school community as they return to the building. We know that by maintaining high standards and respecting one another we can do our level best to keep Covid-19 risks to a minimum. We appreciate everyone's support in this.

As I stated already this school year, a lot has changed. Two things I can assure you that haven't changed are the exceptional care and comprehensive education we provide for your son/daughter.