



**RETURNING TO SCHOOL:  
Covid19 Information for  
Students and  
Parents**

**Carrigallen  
Vocational School**



# Coronavirus **COVID-19**

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s) / Students,

We are very much looking forward to returning to school after a protracted length of time at home. However, as we all have become aware in the last six months, the situation relating to Covid19 changes overnight and the Public Health advice is updated regularly.

This information booklet adheres to the guidelines in the document *Reopening Our Schools: The Roadmap for the Full Return to School* as published by the Department of Education and Skills.

As of the date of posting, this information is current. Going forward, changes may occur based on Public Health Advice. We will post any changes or updates to our website ([www.carrigallenvs.com](http://www.carrigallenvs.com)) and Facebook page so we advise that you consult them should you have any further queries.

*Declan Conboy*  
Principal

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## MASKS

In keeping with government guidelines, all students will be obliged to wear masks during the school day as we do not have the building space to guarantee the recommended 2 metre social distancing space. Students will supply their own masks.



The school advises that every student has a supply of washable face masks and that masks used during the day are washed every evening for reuse. Please note that the wearing of a face covering does not negate the need to stay home if symptomatic.

## HAND SANITISER



Hand Sanitiser will be provided in multiple locations within the school including classrooms, exits and entrances. Students will be encouraged to wash / sanitise their hands regularly during the school day.

## SIGNAGE

Signage is being installed which will highlight the measures that help to prevent the spread of the virus

## SCREENS

Perspex screens will be installed at teacher's desks

## COUGHING / SNEEZING ETIQUETTE

As we all have been advised since the start of this pandemic, coughing or sneezing into our elbows and the safe disposal of tissues after is very important in a space like a school building.

## SCHOOL CLEANING

All school buildings / rooms (on and off-site) will be cleaned daily using a 'fogging' machine.



## SPACING / SOCIAL DISTANCING

Classrooms are currently being cleared of any excess furniture to facilitate maximum space for social distancing.

# SCHOOL ACCESS

## FOR STUDENTS:

- School will open for student admission only from 8.35am in the morning.
- Students will be assigned a Home Room until class starts
- Students will NOT be permitted downtown in the morning or at lunchtime to enable social distancing in the town. This includes Leaving Cert students. Letters from parents requesting permission to go downtown will not be accepted
- We are considering the possibility of staggering lunch time break, if possible
- There will be separate entrance and exit points for students and a system will be put in place in order to manage the movement of students between classes. Students will be informed of this on their return.

## FOR PARENTS / OTHER VISITORS

- Access for parents / guardians / visitors may **only** be through the door directly in front of the Reception Office. This includes parents who may be signing students in or out in the course of a normal school day.
- All appointments will have to be made through the general office (0494339640). We have limited space in reception and we ask that in the new school year, anyone who arrives for an arranged appointment must please follow all the Covid19 regulations including wearing a facemask, sanitising and providing their details for a contact tracing log.
- For the short term, we advise that where possible, issues are resolved by phone or email rather than face to face.

# **DAILY CHECKLIST**

## **FOR STUDENTS:**

- *School Diary* ✓
- *Supplies: pencil case, pens, pencils, calculator etc...* ✓
- *iPad—for ALL year groups (which will have their ebooks for every subject)* ✓
- *A4 Copies for all subjects* ✓
- *All students must bring a packed lunch and have breakfast before they arrive to school* ✓
- *Water Fountains will be disconnected in line with HSE guidelines so students are advised to have their own supply of water for the school day.* ✓
- *Face Mask with or without visor* ✓
- *Wipes for their personal use if they wish* ✓
- *Tissues* ✓
- *Small bottle of hand sanitiser* ✓

STUDENTS MUST KEEP ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN THEIR SCHOOL BAGS AND BE AWARE THAT ACCESS TO LOCKERS WILL BE GREATLY LIMITED

# UNIFORMS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

- Students are asked to wear school uniforms. Public Health advice may change on this but for now students are expected to wear the school uniform every day, except when they have PE classes (see below).
- Uniforms must be washed as often as it is possible—we understand that this adds to pressure for families but we have to adhere to this advice to keep the virus at bay
- Ventilation in all rooms will be very important. Windows will be kept open. Students may have to wear coats in class and we ask that these are also washed and changed as often as possible. Students will be advised on when the wearing of coats in class will become permissible.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

- In order to ensure students have safe access to Physical Education on our return to school, students will be required to wear their school PE uniform for the duration of the day on which they have a timetabled PE class. This is the ONLY day on which they are allowed to wear non-uniform clothes.
- The changing room facilities will not be in use.
- The school PE uniform consists of a plain navy tracksuit bottoms (no leggings or skinny bottoms allowed), blue polo shirt and school jumper



# IF A STUDENT DISPLAYS SYMPTOMS:

## AT HOME:

- A student displaying any symptoms at home should not be sent into school and follow HSE guidelines
- With this in mind, Students should not return to school after an absence without a note stating clearly the reason for absence.

## IN SCHOOL:

- In the case of a student showing symptoms during school, the school will adhere to all the guidelines as laid out in the document *Reopening Our Schools: The Roadmap for the Full Return to School*
- An isolation room / space will be provided for students who display symptoms in the school up
- PARENTS / GUARDIANS MUST COLLECT THEIR CHILD / WARD FROM SCHOOL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IF THEY DISPLAY SYMPTOMS

## TRAVEL:

- Under current HSE guidelines, it is very important for families who have travelled to countries that are not on the 'Green List' for Ireland to isolate for 14 days after their return. Students should not return to school until that period of isolation is up.
- Please be advised that the UK (with the exception of Northern Ireland) is not on the Green List.

# GENERAL COVID ETIQUETTE:

- Misappropriation or damage of PPE (Masks, hand sanitisers etc...) will be severely dealt with.
- Students who deliberately cough or spit will be sent home. This is too serious to be taken as a joke. Please be aware of the anxieties of others in the school community and be respectful of each other.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please visit the Department of Education and Skills website for further information: <https://www.education.ie/covid19>

Any new updates or announcements will be available on our website: <https://www.carrigallenvs.com> and our school Facebook page

School contact details: (049)4339640, Email: [office@carrigallenvs.com](mailto:office@carrigallenvs.com)

