

COVID-19 Update for Interim Re-Opening 1st March 2021



In line with guidance from the Department of Education and skills, St. Lachteen's National school will have a partial re-opening from Monday 1st March 2021.

Following a Board of Management review the Covid-Response Plan and Risk Assessment is unchanged from the files available on the School website since the September re-opening except for the following amendments:

- Only pupils from Junior Infants to 2nd class will attend school and remote learning will continue for 3rd-6th Classes
- Parents must complete a Return to School declaration for each child to return to school on 1st March as well as returning to school after any other absence after 1st March
- All SNAs and SET staff will return to working from the school building
- Yard times for the Interim period have been changed to 11 and 1 o'clock
- Staff are to be provided with the recommended Medical Grade Masks made to EU Standard EN 14683.
- An updated Return To Work form is to be completed by all staff before returning to work
- Staff and pupils are 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
- Staff and pupils are not to return to or attend school in the event of the following:
 - if they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
 - 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.
- Staff and pupils are 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;
- Handwashing is compulsory after activities that soil hands as hand sanitiser does not work on dirty hands
- 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 break-times or lunch-times (assuming not in use) and also at the end of each school day) and partially open when classrooms are in use. The guidance provides that good ventilation can be achieved in classrooms without causing discomfort, particularly during cold weather.
- Mr McDonnell, School Principal, will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the protocol to deal with suspected Covid cases have been adhered to.
- For the Duration of the interim Partial Re-opening in order to adhere to Child Protection guidelines Mr McDonnell will temporarily assume the Role of Designated Liaison Person for the period and Mrs Deirdre McCarthy will temporarily be the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.