

August 2021 Amendment to St. Peter's N.S. Covid 19 response plan which should be read in conjunction with our original Covid 19 response plan Aug 2020 and March 2021 Amendment.

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 primary and special schools.

Know the Symptoms of COVID-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms of coronavirus (which includes the DELTA variant). Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- 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
- Fatigue
- Aches and Pains
- Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:
 - sore throat
 - headaches
 - runny or stuffy noses

- feeling sick or vomiting
- diarrhoea

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](#).

If you have any 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](#). Symptoms may be subject to change so regular review of the HSE Website is advised. If you **do not** have symptoms, you can get a free COVID-19 (coronavirus) test at a [COVID-19 walk-in test centre](#).

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.

1. Return to work protocol. Staff will complete the updated RTW form. Pregnant staff and staff who are deemed very high risk are directed by the Department of Education and Skills to adhere to Circular 42/2021.

Absence by a staff member/pupil is a private matter between staff/pupil and school management.

2. Arrival and Dispersal times for pupils:

Three staggered arrival and pick up times.

No child should be on the school yard before 9.10 a.m. or after 2.50 p.m.

Parents are asked to be on-time/prompt at dropping off and collection times

Pupils whose surnames begin with:	Bus Children + families whose surnames begin with <u>A</u> up to and including <u>Dunne</u>	Families whose surnames begin with <u>Durkan</u> up to and including <u>McDonnell</u>	Families whose surnames begin with <u>McF</u> up to and including <u>W</u>
Arrival Time	9.10 a.m.	9.20 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
**Collection Time for <u>Junior Infants</u> From <u>01/09/-10/09/2021</u> only	11.50 a.m.	12 noon	12.10 p.m.
Collection Time for Junior and Senior Infants	1.30 p.m.	1.40 p.m.	1.50 p.m.
Collection Time for 1st to 6th class	2.30 p.m.	2.40 p.m.	2.50 p.m.

On arrival at school pupils will follow different coloured lines from different entrance points to their classrooms

Entrance 1: Senior Infants, 1st class and 1st/2nd class

Entrance 2: 2nd class, 4th/5th class, Ms. T Shaw's 3rd class

Entrance 3: 6th class, 5th class, 4th class

Entrance 4: Junior Infants, Junior & Senior Infants, Mrs O'Donoghue's 3rd class

Entrance 5: pupils travelling from the Rathbawn side of school can enter through this gate if it is closer than Entrance 1/2/3/4. Pupils enter the yard and go immediately to the line that leads them to their classroom entrance.

3. Use of PPE in Schools

- **Medical Grade Masks:** All school staff will be provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category.
- Children do not have to wear masks but may do so if they wish. If a child presents with Covid 19 symptoms at school they will be asked to wear a mask.

4. Access to the school building /contact log

- **Parents are respectfully asked not to congregate at or near the school.**
- **Communication with the school must be by phone or email as there will not be any in-person meetings between staff and parents for the foreseeable future.**
- **Only people deemed by the Board of Management as essential workers are allowed to enter the school grounds.**

5. Infection Prevention Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools

1981 Infectious Diseases legislation

(<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1981/si/390/made/en/print>)

quoted below some of the relevant points.

Section 11

“11. On becoming aware, whether from a notification or intimation under these Regulations or otherwise, of a case or a suspected case of an infectious disease or of a probable source of infection with such disease, a medical officer of health, or a health officer on the advice of a medical officer of health, shall make such enquiries and take such steps as are necessary or desirable for investigating the nature and source of such infection, for preventing the spread of such infection and for removing conditions favourable to such infection”.

Section 19

“19. A person who refuses to comply with a requirement or direction given or a request for information made in pursuance of any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of a contravention of these Regulations.”

Infection Prevention Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Schools.

As a precautionary measure if anyone gets sick at school , they will be treated as if they are a “suspected case of Covid 19” and our “Dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19” procedure will be followed.

- Staff and pupils are advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements ie. **stay at home, do not go to work or school if they or any family member display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. They must contact their family doctor to seek advice and they should follow the medical advice.**

- In the event of a person choosing not to seek medical advice, the school must treat them as a positive case and will require the person with symptoms to absent themselves from school for 10 days. Close contacts of such a case are required to restrict their movements for 14 days from the last date of contact with the case. When children are involved, it is often not feasible to isolate a child away from the household. In this case, where a child cannot self-isolate, the household must restrict their movements for 17 days from the first day of symptoms of the case.

See <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/managing-coronavirus-at-home/if-you-live-with-someone-who-has-coronavirus.html>

- Staff and pupils are advised not to return to work 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

In all of the cases mentioned above, staff and parents of pupils are advised to seek medical advice and to follow that medical advice.

☐ If staff or pupils have travelled outside of Ireland; staff and pupils are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.

☐ Staff and pupils are asked to cooperate with any public health advice and engage with 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;

School staff is encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contact tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.

6. Early Intervention Programmes & Sports

Aistear will not take place for the foreseeable future

Literacy Lift Off will not take place for the foreseeable future.

Schools refer to the HPSC guidance on Return to Sport. Link to return to sport protocols is found here.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/07253-return-to-sport-protocols/>

7. There will be no homework given to classes in early September.

Key Messages/Reminders:

Hand Hygiene

Our school promotes good hygiene and displays 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>

Posters displaying hand washing techniques and promoting hand washing are placed on walls adjacent to washing facilities.

Hand sanitiser dispensers are installed at exit and entry points of school and classrooms.

☒ Children will be required to wash their hands on arrival at school, before and after each break, after using the toilet, before going

home from school and children will sanitise their hands at frequent intervals throughout the day.

Frequency of Hand Hygiene :

Pupils and staff should perform hand hygiene:

- when arriving/leaving the school /other sites
- when entering and exiting vehicles
- Before eating or drinking;
- After using the toilet;
- After playing outdoors;
- When their hands are physically dirty;
- before and after wearing gloves
- before and after being on public transport
- When they cough or sneeze.
- after touching potentially contaminated surfaces
- if in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms

Respiratory etiquette

Staff and pupils will be required to follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering mouth and nose with a tissue or with bent elbow when there is a need to cough or sneeze. Used tissue must be disposed of immediately. Hands are to be washed, dried and sanitised following a coughing/sneezing episode.

Good hygiene practices and washing hands properly and regularly can help stop the spread of the virus. All staff and pupils will adopt the following practices as strictly as possible:

Do

- Wash your hands properly and often

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze
- Put used tissues into a bin and wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Do Not

- Touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Share objects that touch your mouth – for example, bottles, cups, cutlery, etc.

Physical Distancing:

Physical Distancing of 2m where possible outside of the classroom and within the school

School drop off/collection

- **Parents are respectfully requested to drop and go/collect and go** once their children have safely entered/exited the school grounds at arrival/dispersal time and **parents are asked to be there promptly at collection time.** This will minimise large groups congregating at the school, ease parking congestion whilst also ensuring pupils will be safely dropped off and collected.
- Parents are respectfully requested **not to socialise or congregate at school gates at arrival and collection times.**(Please stay in your car)
- **If Parents have to leave their cars they must wear face masks at arrival and collection times.**

Pupils should not be dropped off outside the school gates by parents before 9.10am. No pupils on school grounds before 9.10a.m.

- Families just make one drop off – pupils proceed directly to their respective classroom from 9.10am, 9.20 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. onwards.

Children are not allowed to play outside before school begins nor after school ends. They are to go immediately to their classrooms/cars.

At dropping off and /or collecting times, we encourage physical distancing of 2m at all times where possible. Parents are asked to be at the school at their designated pick-up time. (Children should not have to wait on the yard at home time as there is an increased risk of classes mixing.)

Walking/cycling to school is encouraged as much as possible.

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 distance as is possible is required. Wearing medical grade face masks should be observed.

Physical distancing will be improved among staff members within the staff room through the use of staggered breaks.

Staff meetings will be held remotely.

A no hand shaking policy is implemented.

Staff may have to rotate between areas/classes but this shall be minimized where possible.

Yard/Supervision

Breaks, play time/outdoor activities are staggered to ensure that classes/bubbles do not mix and each class/bubble plays in their designated zones

During the day to minimise crowding at the entrance and exits classes will be dispersed pod by pod and will be dispersed according to surname at home time.

Children will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities.

The school will minimise equipment sharing and clean shared equipment between uses by different people.

Ventilation

In accordance with public health advice '*Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools*', Classroom doors, where/when practical will be left open to minimise touching of common areas and to enhance good ventilation. Classroom windows and doors will be open as often as possible to increase air flow.

- The Department has also published guidance regarding on how these practical steps measures can be supplemented and enhanced by the use of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) monitors. The Department plans to equip schools with a number of monitors but unfortunately they will not supply one CO₂ monitor per classroom..
- As windows/doors will be open throughout the day, children are advised to wear layers of clothing under the school uniform/tracksuit.

Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

School staff is encouraged to download the HSE COVID-19 tracker app to assist Public Health for contact tracing purposes both in and out of the school setting.

Isolation room(s)/area(s): 1. kitchenette, 2. Polytunnel, 3.shelters, etc.

Isolation for people who develop symptoms or signs in the educational setting

1. If pupils develop symptoms or signs that cause concern about COVID-19 during the day the pupil will be moved as quickly as possible to a separate/isolation room or if that is not possible to a separate area more than 2m away from other people other than the person(s) needed to provide support until they can leave.
2. The parents/guardian shall be telephoned to come and take the pupil home as soon as is reasonably practical. This needs to be done promptly.
3. Parents/guardian should take medical advice regarding the requirement for testing and the duration of exclusion from education.
4. Pupils and/or school staff may leave the room to aerate it if someone has displayed Covid 19 symptoms.
5. Contact surfaces in the immediate vicinity of the person with symptoms shall be cleaned/ wiped down.
6. The person accompanying a pupil waiting to be collected shall limit physical contact as much as is practical consistent with the pupil's needs and should use a surgical mask, visor, gown and gloves. Hand hygiene must be performed after removal of PPE gear.

7. When the pupil is collected, the accompanying person can resume work with other pupils after removing used PPE and performing hand hygiene.

- ***Cleaning/Disinfecting isolation room(s) where a pupil/staff member with suspected COVID-19 was present***
- The room should be cleaned as soon as practicably possible.
- Once the room is vacated the room should not be reused until the room has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all surfaces are dry.
- Disinfection only works on things that are clean. When disinfection is required it is always as well as cleaning.
- Person assigned to cleaning should avoid touching their face while they are cleaning and should wear household gloves and a plastic apron.
- 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 pupil or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 spent time in a communal area like a canteen, play area or if they used the toilet or bathroom facilities, then the areas should be cleaned with household detergent followed by a disinfectant (as outlined in the HPSC interim health advice) as soon as is practically possible.

Checklist for dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19

Mrs Anne Cooney, as LWR, a 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.

Checklist for cleaning

There is a written cleaning schedule available to cleaning staff and cleaning staff will wear medical grade masks, aprons and gloves whilst performing their cleaning duties.