

Bohermore National School

Covid-19 Response Plan

Covid-19 Policy Statement and School Procedures

Introduction

This Covid-19 Response Plan is designed to support the staff and Board of Management (BOM) in putting measures in place that will reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 in Bohermore National School.

The Covid-19 Response Plan details the policies and practices necessary for our school to meet the Government's 'Return to Work Safely Protocol', the Department of Education and Skills plan for school reopening and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the school environment. The plan incorporates current advice about measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in the community issued by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE). As the advice issued by NPHE continues to evolve, this protocol and the measures management and staff need to address may also change.

The plan is a live working document and may be reviewed and amended to take into account new guidance from www.gov.ie, www.hse.ie, www.hpsc.ie, www.hsa.ie; www.education.ie. Should immediate changes be made to the plan following advice from any of the above staff will be informed via email. The response plan will support the sustainable reopening of our school where the overriding objective is to protect the health of staff and pupils while promoting the educational and development needs of the children in the school.

In line with the Return to Work Safely Protocol, the key to a safe and continued return to work, and re-opening of our schools requires strong communication and a shared collaborative approach between the Board of Management, staff, pupils and parents.

COVID-19 Policy Statement

Bohermore National School is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and a safe learning environment for all our pupils. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan. The BOM and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus. We will:

- Continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and amend this plan in consultation with our staff
- Provide up to date information to our staff and pupils on the Public Health advice issued by the HSE and Gov.ie
- Display information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and correct handwashing techniques
- Agree with staff, a worker representative who is easily identifiable to carry out the role outlined in this plan
- Inform all staff and pupils of essential hygiene and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing requirements
- Adapt the school to facilitate physical distancing as appropriate in line with the guidance and direction of the Department of Education
- Keep a contact log to help with contact tracing
- Ensure staff engage with the induction / familiarisation briefing provided by the Department of Education
- Implement the agreed procedures to be followed in the event of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school
- Provide instructions for staff and pupils to follow if they develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school time
- Implement cleaning in line with Department of Education advice. All school staff will be consulted on an ongoing basis and feedback is encouraged on any concerns, issues or suggestions. This can be done through the Lead Worker Representative(s), who will be supported in line with the agreement between the Department and education partners. The Lead Worker Representative can be contacted by email at office@bohermorens.ie

Signed: Rev. James Walton PP

Date: December 3rd 2020

Chairperson of the Board of Management

In the event of someone becoming ill at school

1. Remove the child to the isolation area
2. Open the doors fully in the isolation area
3. Open the front door of the school fully
4. Ensure that the child is reassured and feels safe and comfortable
5. Take and record the child's temperature
6. Ensure that you have, or you have instructed someone to clean all surfaces that the child has been in contact with and in the vicinity of
7. Ensure that you sit 2m away from the child on the chair provided
8. Ensure that you - or that you have instructed someone to call the child's parents
9. Maintain 2m social distance from the child's parents or guardian upon collection

Once the child has been collected

1. Ensure that you change and dispose of your PPE. Change and dispose of anything in the Covid bin. Ensure double bagging of this waste and place outside
2. Ensure that the isolation area, your seat and the front area of the school are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized
3. Document the incident fully in the Covid incident book located in the isolation area.

In the event of a staff member becoming ill in school

1. Ensure that the staff member feels well enough to go home on their own.
2. Document symptoms in the Covid notebook location in the isolation room.
3. Ensure that all areas that the staff has been in contact with and in the vicinity of is cleaned and sanitized.
4. If the staff member feels too unwell to drive themselves home, take them to the isolation area and follow all procedures 1-9 listed above.

In the event of a positive case in our school

FOLLOW ALL GUIDELINES FROM THE HSE, TUSLA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN RELATION TO CLOSE CONTACTS AND SELF ISOLATION OF CHILDREN AND STAFF.

Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that all GDPR guidelines are being adhered to.