



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and 5th Year Students,

Following the Taoiseach's announcement regarding 5th Years returning to **in-person learning** in school we are very much looking forward to seeing our 5th Year Students back in school next Monday. We are writing to update you on procedures put in place to keep all students and staff safe.

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

The Department has asked us to advise all staff and students:

- to self-isolate or restrict your movements at home if you display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and contact your family doctor to arrange a test
- not to return to or attend school in the event of the following:
 - if you are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - if you live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
 - If you have travelled outside of Ireland; in such instances you are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- 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;

Sick Students

Please keep students who are unwell at home. There was a move towards *"go to school and see how you are feeling"* towards the end of last term, which we would ask parents/guardians not to do that this term.

Sharing Lifts

Are you bringing students from another family with you in your car to and from school? While this is not advised we are aware that some families have no other way to get their children to school. If this is the case then everyone in the car should be wearing masks for the entire duration of the trip and the car should also be ventilated for the duration of the trip.

Personal Responsibility

Prior to your return to school we are reminding everyone when in school of their personal responsibility to:

- bring refreshed zip-lock bag to school every day
- wash hands regularly
- sanitise hands when getting into or out of any vehicles
- sanitise hands entering or exiting buildings or rooms
- maintain 2m metres social distance when eating
- maintain 2m social distance outside when taking a break from wearing face masks
- maintain 1m social distance when inside wearing masks
- supporting all school routines put in place to keep everyone safe

- not to attend school if unwell
- wear mask correctly i.e. covering mouth and nose at all times
- keeping up-to-date with current HSE advice available at this [link](#)
- wearing the school pinafore or PE uniform – please wear layers under your uniform as the windows will be open for ventilation!
- bring ONLY ONE text book per subject and one notepad/refill pad each day
- please be advised that there should be no congregation outside the school



When in school parents/guardians have personal responsibility for:

- reminding their children of all the above
- keeping children who are unwell at home
- keeping children at home if someone in your home has symptoms of the virus and/or is awaiting a test or the results of a test.

We need **everyone** to help us with all of the above – we have a collective responsibility to implement routines that keep all in the Loreto Clonmel community as safe as possible.

Return to In-Person Learning Form for 5th Years

All staff and parents/guardians of 5th year students are required to fill in a form prior to returning to school. Parents/guardians should click on this [link](#) to fill in the form by Saturday at 5pm.

Any student whose parent/guardian has not filled in the form may not return to school on Monday.

Minister Foley's Letter to Parents/Guardians

Yesterday we sent you the [Minister's Letter to Parents/Guardians](#). Please note that in this letter the Minister says:

"Remote teaching and learning provision for students in each category will cease once in-person teaching and learning provision commences for each group of students."

School Opening Hours

We remind you that the school office will refer your query to the correct person. The office email is reception@loretoclonmel.ie and the school phone number is (052) 6121402.

Please be mindful of the time you are ringing or emailing. Our office hours during term time are as follows:

Monday to Thursday:	8:45 am to 12:50am	and	1:50pm to 5pm
Friday only:	8:45 am to 12:50am	and	1:50pm to 4:30pm

You are all in our thoughts and prayers as we get safely back to school together. As the Irish saying goes: *"Ní neart go cur le chéile"* (there is no strength without unity).

Stay safe,

Anne Mc Grath, Principal

Sarah Rice, Deputy Principal



See here for more information:

[Isolation quick guide - adults and children from their 13th birthday](#)

Support for post-primary students



Advice for your return to in-person learning

To ensure **your safety**, follow the rules and routines put in place by your school. These include:

- Social distancing
- Washing your hands regularly with hand sanitiser
- Wearing a face covering where a two metre distance cannot be maintained.

Be sure to **play your part** and contribute to discussions. Remember, your opinions matter. Support your classmates, they may be glad of a listening ear.

When on **school transport**, sit in your assigned seat and wear a face covering when waiting for and when on board the bus.



You may feel that you have **missed out on learning**. Don't worry, the Department of Education and your teachers will support you, especially if you are an exam year student.

If you have **COVID-19 symptoms**, you should not attend school. While at school, if you develop symptoms, you should tell your teacher immediately. See [here](#) for more information.

There is always **someone to help** if you feel anxious. If you have any worries, you can reach out to your tutor, year head, guidance counsellor or a trusted adult.



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

How to wear a face covering:

Cover your nose and mouth.



Nope.



Not quite.



Try again.



That's the one!