



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Wednesday 28th April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We received a letter from the HSE, on Monday, sent to all secondary schools in Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir as follows:

Subject: Covid 19

Dear Principal,

We have received, in the Department of Public Health South East, reports from colleagues around the country of cases of COVID-19 associated with secondary school attendance. There are a few matters (which impact on all students, but are reported to impact particularly on Leaving Certificate students) that I would like to highlight with you:

- Students going to large parties, in particular 18th birthday parties.
- Cases attending schools while symptomatic.
- Close contacts attending school when knowing they are a close contact.
- Leaving Certificate students may feel a need to attend school, despite advice to the contrary, for calculated grades tests.

We have not received similar reports in the South East, and we have had very few cases in secondary school age children since the return to school after Easter. I commend, and thank you and your staff for all your work on this to date. I would appreciate if you would further appeal to students and staff to keep up the good work, in particular emphasising the need for cases, suspect cases, and close contacts to stay out of school for the advised period, and to all students to avoid gathering in large groups, and in particular, indoors.

Kind regards,

Sarah Doyle

Dr. Sarah Doyle, MB BCH BAO MPH FFPHMI FRCPI, MCRN 19055, Specialist in Public Health Medicine,
Medical Officer of Health, HSE South East, Kilkenny

Thank you for your support to-date which has ensured that we can all appreciate being safely in school together. This week we are all enjoying participating in **Active Schools Wellbeing Week**.

You will however be aware of circumstances in other schools where a Year Group or Year Groups have had to remain at home following the confirmation of COVID-19 cases within the school community. **The most common cause of this is social gatherings or parties happening outside school.**

Please ensure that such activities **do not occur**, as they should not, under the current COVID-19 Guidelines. If such social gatherings come to our attention, we are duty bound, in current circumstances, to inform the relevant authorities. We need your continued support in this regard, and we need to continue to work together. If we do so we give ourselves the best opportunity of seeing out the 2020-2021 school year with all students and staff together for these last few weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mc Grath,
Principal

Sarah Rice,
Deputy Principal