



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills

**FAO: All Parents/Legal Guardians in receipt of Home Tuition / ISL Grant Funding and Home Tutors**

**Subject:** COVID-19: Arrangements for continuation of Home Tuition by distance learning for the duration of the pandemic emergency

**Date:** 1 April 2020

In respect of Covid-19/Coronavirus, the health and welfare of families and tutors is paramount. The Department of Health is updating information on Covid-19 on a daily basis. To get accurate and up to-date information please consult HSE website: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>

As part of a step up in the national measures to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus and save lives, the Government, acting on public health advice, has introduced further restrictions on movement as part of the response to the Covid-19 outbreak. These measures are necessary to protect public health.

Everyone is now urged to stay in their home wherever possible. Staying at home is the best way to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19 to your friends, families and communities.

The Department recognises that this places an additional burden on parents, families and tutors currently engaged in Home Tuition.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that funding for the provision of Home Tuition will continue to be provided for the duration of the pandemic emergency where tuition is delivered by distance learning.

**Arrangements for continuation of Home Tuition via distance learning**

The Department would like to acknowledge the effort that tutors, private providers and parents have undertaken over the last two weeks to provide continuity of learning for students through online platforms, email and other means, particularly where access to digital resources is more limited.

This work is critical to supporting children and their ongoing learning and is very much appreciated.

For many families and tutors distance learning is a viable option and the Department is making information and training available to all tutors and private providers to assist them in providing tuition through distance learning, e-learning, finding suitable online resources, communicating with students and families and creating content.

Tutors and private providers are advised to read the attached material for further information or click [here](#) for further information.

### **Emailed Payment Claim forms**

The Department will accept scanned/photos of completed and signed payment claim forms emailed to the following email address: [htpayments@education.gov.ie](mailto:htpayments@education.gov.ie)

Payment claim forms must be legible and be accompanied with a brief description outlining how tuition was delivered.

### **Arrangements if you wish to cease Home Tuition for the duration of the pandemic emergency.**

Where Home Tuition cannot continue via distance learning or where you wish to cease Home Tuition for the duration of the pandemic emergency **you must inform the Department** by email to [special\\_education@education.gov.ie](mailto:special_education@education.gov.ie)

Parents can apply to the Department to use the hours sanctioned for this period to provide tuition later in the year.

In such circumstances, the Department will accept that some of the hours may be delivered outside of the normal school day and/or on a Saturday if necessary.

To provide for the Tutors involved, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection have a range of measures to provide income support to people affected by COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/4cf0e2-covid-19-coronavirus-information-for-employers-and-employees-test/>

### **Children with Underlying Health Conditions**

A number of children with significant medical needs are supported under the medical strand of the Home Tuition scheme.

The HSE sets out advice for parents of children with underlying health conditions at-risk groups and coronavirus at the following link:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/at-risk-groups.html>

## **Arrangements for self-isolation of a member of your household and/or a Tutor you engage**

Where Home Tuition cannot take place in circumstances where a member of your household or a tutor you engage

1. contracts COVID-19, and/or
2. has been advised, in accordance with HSE Guidelines, to self-isolate to prevent the spread of the virus

Provision will be made to allow the continuation of payment to tutors already engaged by you under the Home Tuition Scheme.

Completed and signed Payment Claim forms for any such period must be accompanied by

- confirmation of a COVID-19 diagnosis in respect of a member of your household or a tutor you engage, and/or
- confirmation of an appropriate medical or HSE recommendation to self-isolate in accordance with the HSE Guidelines in respect of a member of your household or a tutor you engage.

The HSE sets out the criteria for self-isolation at

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/self-isolation-and-limited-social-interaction.html>

The current HSE advice is that it can take 14 days from exposure to COVID-19 for the symptoms to appear.

When the recommended period of self-isolation has passed, medical advice and HSE Guidelines should be followed regarding resumption of Tuition.

A copy to this letter is being copied to tutors / private providers engaged by parents under the Home Tuition Scheme.

Please advise all tutors engaged by you under the Home Tuition Scheme of the contents of this letter.

The Department, in conjunction with the public health authorities, will keep the situation under ongoing review. Any changes will be communicated widely.

Special Education Section  
Department of Education and Skills