



To: All DEIS postprimary schools providing DEIS summer programmes in 2020

13 July 2020

Guidance on summer provision

Dear Principal,

The Department is issuing a template “School COVID-19 Response Plan” to post- primary schools to support management and staff in the delivery of summer programmes for children with special educational needs and those experiencing educational disadvantage as we continue to operate in line with public health advice to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This template is the same as that which has already issued to primary schools.

The Plan contains useful information on issues including –

- Planning and preparing for the return to school
- General advice to prevent the spread of the virus
- Procedure for Returning to Work (RTW)
- Control Measures
- Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19
- Staff Duties

DEIS post-primary schools providing summer programmes should complete the attached COVID-19 Summer Provision Response Plan in advance of school re-opening for summer provision.

This plan template is in line with public health advice and is attached here at Appendix 1. It has been updated with information in respect of hand hygiene, physical distancing, use of PPE and a risk assessment template.

The plan should be made available to staff undertaking the programme as well as parents and pupils involved. The return to work form as provided in the template is for use by staff involved in the summer programme.

To further support the running of summer provision the following information is provided:

Signage

Schools are required to display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene. The following is a link to the dedicated area of the Health Protection and Surveillance Centre (HPSC) website where there are a number of posters, including those appropriate for post-primary school pupils, located. Irish versions are also available here.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/posters/>

Schools should download the posters and display in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, staffroom area, classrooms and toilets.



School Buildings

Before re-opening schools are reminded to check the following:

- Does the water system need flushing at outlets following low usage to prevent Legionella disease;
- Has school equipment and mechanical ventilation been checked for signs of deterioration or damage before being used again;
- Have bin collections and other essential services resumed.

The Department recognises that in making arrangements for more regular and thorough cleaning of areas in line with the COVID-19 Summer Provision Response Plan that additional cleaning costs will occur. Schools should make the necessary arrangements for additional cleaning for the Summer Provision and the Department will provide funding for these costs, together with the locally sourced PPE and sanitiser as part of revised funding arrangements. These will be made available to all schools in the autumn.

Training

The Department is working to provide an online induction training programme for staff for return to schools in autumn 2020. In the interim induction training for Summer Provision is provided as a presentation at Appendix 2. It is also available as a webinar at the following link <https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Services/summerprovision/summer-education-programme-2020.html#SchoolBased>

The resources that are being issued now are focused on summer provision only. Given that the response to the pandemic must adjust and adapt to the circumstances prevailing in the country at the time, the guidance will be updated further in the coming weeks in preparation for the return to school at the start of the next school year. This will ensure that the best advice based on the most likely situation that will apply from the next school year can be given.

Your co-operation with the Summer Programme arrangements are appreciated.

Yours faithfully
Dalton Tattan
Assistant Secretary