



Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Covid-19 is a new illness that can affect a person's lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

Legislation under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 requires health surveillance to be carried out based on risk assessment. Employers are required to undertake a risk assessment with regard to Covid-19 and potential workplace exposure where the nature of work poses an occupational exposure health risk to Covid-19.

This risk assessment is designed to identify suitable control measures to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 infection. Risk assessments need to be regularly reviewed and updated and be based on the current best practice in relation to infection prevention and control.

What is the risk? Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus

Key Challenge: A key challenge for colleges during this pandemic is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for students/students and where Tutors feel able to engage with students in a way that supports their learning.

Transmission: Being a respiratory virus, Covid-19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets, with person-to-person contact appearing to be the main method of transmission. The virus can also survive on contaminated surfaces, possibly for up to several days. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission (when a person is displaying no symptoms) occurs.

Vaccination: There are no vaccines available to date.

Who Might be harmed? Trustees, Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principal, Tutors, Staff, Students, Visitors, Contractors.

Covid-19- Primary Symptoms: Fever (higher temperature of 38 degrees C. (100.4 degrees F.) or above - Cough which can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough - shortness of breath or breathing difficulties - loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Human Health Risk: mild, moderate, severe or fatal. Older adults, or those with underlying medical conditions appear to be at a higher risk of developing more serious complications from Covid-19 illness.

This Risk Assessment has been prepared in response to the emerging risks associated with Covid-19 pandemic.

Note: Staff and students should understand the benefits and risks of education and social interaction and that it is not possible to guarantee that infection can be prevented in any setting either in an education centre, at home or in any other setting where people interact with other people.

Note: This is a living document and will be updated as required

Risk	Controls implemented to mitigate against Risk of Spreading Covid-19
<p>Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the College environment</p>	<p>The risk is of spread of infection exists in all interpersonal interactions such as staff-contractor, student-contractor, student-student, tutor-tutor, and tutor-student and is not limited to the classroom and requires to be managed in all settings within Central College Limerick. This risk is mitigated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff, contractors, students, and essential visitors / contractors being required to wear facial coverings while on college premises. ▪ Gel sanitisers located at entrances and exits. ▪ Display of Covid-19 Information Signage provided by the DES throughout the college. ▪ Covid-19 Induction Training for all staff (Note: All staff have been requested to watch the DES Induction Video before returning to college and will also engage in onsite training before students return to college.) ▪ Covid-19 Induction Training for all students. ▪ Encouraging good hand hygiene technique, respiratory hygiene and social distancing. ▪ The implementation of a Covid-19 Policy and Response Plan. ▪ Provision of Covid-19 presentations for staff and students ▪ Prohibiting of social physical contact, hand to hand greetings/hugs. ▪ Promotion of awareness of Covid-19 and it's symptoms among staff and students with posters, email/text communications. ▪ Heightened awareness by staff and students on how to protect themselves and each other as well as how to recognise and report symptoms of a Covid-19 infection. ▪ The exclusion of staff, student, visitors and contractors who are ill. ▪ Requirement that staff/students who experience symptoms of Covid-19 or other acute infectious disease are not to attend college, to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation. ▪ Requirement that staff members are not to present for work if they have been identified by HSE as a contact of a person with Covid-19 and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement.

<p>Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the College environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Requirement that staff members/students who develop symptoms at college to bring this to the attention of their manager/tutor/SNA promptly and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation.▪ Advice to students not to come to college if they have symptoms of a viral respiratory infection or if there is someone in the household suspected or known to have Covid-19.▪ Advice to students not to come to college if they have been identified as Covid-19 contacts.▪ Advice to students that the college reserves the right to decline entry to students who appear to have fever or respiratory tract infection.▪ Ensuring students are aware of the reason why they should not attend if they have respiratory symptoms.▪ Ensure students are aware that if they develop signs or symptoms when at college to let their tutor know.▪ Ensuring everyone who entering the college/classroom performs hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser.▪ Tutors are required to maintain social distance requirement where possible when dealing with students.▪ Tutors will take measures to avoid close contact at face to face level such as remaining standing rather than sitting beside/crouching down.▪ Class space reconfigured to maximise physical distancing (where possible).▪ Rooms will have adequate ventilation. Doors/windows will be opened to allow air to circulate whenever feasible.▪ Avoidance of situations that require people to sit or stand in direct physical contact with other people.▪ Tutor's desk (where possible) to be placed at least 2 metres away from students' desks.▪ Where students need to move about within the classroom to perform activities (for example to access a shared resource) this is to be organised to the greatest extent possible so as to minimise congregation around the point of access to the shared resource.▪ Students and tutors are asked to refrain from sharing of personal items such as pens and other writing materials, tablets and phones.▪ All tutors, other staff and students are to avoid behaviours that involve hand to mouth contact (putting pens/pencils in the mouth etc.).▪ Where teaching and learning involves use of keyboards or tablets the contact surfaces of the devices are required to
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<p>Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the College environment</p>	<p>be cleaned by user before use and when finished with the keyboard or device and hand hygiene encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In the event of sub-groups being required within a class for group work, to the greatest extent possible the same students will generally be in the same group.▪ Hand washing and/or sanitising is required when moving between classes by both tutor and students.▪ Students and tutors required to maintain 2 metres physical distance within the college where possible.▪ Social distancing is required between people congregating at the college gates.▪ Students are required to go straight to their classroom upon arrival at the college.▪ Implementation of a 'No Hand shaking policy'.▪ Requirement to avoid gathering within the college at the beginning or end of the college day.▪ Protocols in place in the event a student or tutor or contractor should develop symptoms of Covid-19 during the college day.▪ Communication of risks to tutors, staff, students.▪ Advice to tutors, staff, students of the need to stay at home if showing symptoms of Covid-19 or if they are in contact with others with symptoms of Covid-19.▪ Regular cleaning and sanitiser of workplace and communal equipment.▪ Use of PPE (gloves/masks) provided when dealing with and isolating Covid-19 suspected symptomatic person.▪ Sanitisation of shared equipment/ areas.▪ Increased cleaning and disinfecting of high-risk objects and surfaces schedule. Such as door handles, handrails, light switches, reception area, toilets, communal areas etc.▪ Appointment of Covid-19 Lead Worker representatives.▪ Appointment of Covid-19 Manager.▪ Deliveries arranged, where possible, arranged between 8 am and 8.30 am.▪ The college will conduct online meetings or small group meetings in place of large group meetings where applicable / possible.▪ Where face to face meetings are necessary, the length of the meeting and the numbers attending the meeting is to be kept to a minimum.
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<p>Risk of Covid-19 spreading in the College environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ One-way system implemented within the college where possible.▪ Staff and students instructed to walk on the right-hand side of corridors to aid traffic flow and avoid contact with others where possible.▪ Informal gatherings on corridors / stairs / communal areas when entering, moving about or exiting the college are prohibited .▪ Unnecessary gatherings of staff at the beginning and termination of the college’s day is prohibited.▪ The sharing of educational material has been minimised as much as possible.▪ Classrooms have been reconfigured to maximise physical distancing.▪ Tutors and students are required to wear face masks in college where social distancing is not possible (Visors to be used in certain limited situations).▪ Essential visitors/contractors are required to make an appointment prior to visiting the college.▪ All visitors must sign contract tracing log.▪ Staff and students have been instructed to observe social distancing at all times.▪ Perspex sheeting has been installed in reception hatches and offices.▪ Employees are required to clean and sanitise their workstations / areas at the commencement and at the termination periods of their working day / period / area including equipment, etc.▪ All official business trips and face-to-face interactions been reduced to the absolute minimum.▪ First Aid responders in the college will be trained on infection prevention and control principles, including performance of hand hygiene and appropriate use of personal protective equipment when delivering first aid.▪ Flushing of the college water systems has taken place to prevent any potential for Legionnaires’ disease.▪ All keyboards of computers have been fitted with covers to aid cleaning and prevent the spread of Covid-19.
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<p>Risk of Covid-19 to vulnerable high-risk persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wearing of Non-medical masks – The wearing of non-medical masks may reduce the transmission of Covid-19 from individuals who may be infected with Covid-19 virus (i.e. asymptomatic) ▪ Remote teaching learning facilities may be implemented in the event of a student(s) self-isolating at home (where applicable) ▪ Remote teaching learning facilities may be implemented in the event of staff being required to work from home
<p>Students with Special Educational Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrangements in place highlighting awareness of signs, symptoms or changes which might suggest illness / Covid-19 infections so as to ensure students do not attend college where symptoms are present. ▪ Tutors and staff awareness of the signs, symptoms or changes which might suggest illness / Covid-19 infections so as to ensure tutors do not attend college where symptoms are present. ▪ Assistance with hand hygiene for students who may be unable to wash their hands themselves. ▪ Cleaning student's aids and appliance and/ or medical equipment etc. ▪ Tutors and staff using facial coverings and other required PPE equipment in circumstances where physical distancing is not possible. Face Visors used in certain limited situations. ▪ Tutors and staff performing regular hand hygiene when working between different students. ▪ Students to be monitored to ensure that they do not accidentally ingest hand sanitisers – this risk is mitigated through the provision of instruction on effective hand hygiene techniques to tutors, SNA, staff, contractors and students.
<p>Risks of slips or falls due to spillage of hand sanitisers at dispenser locations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care will be taken to clean up any hand sanitiser spills to prevent risk of falls.

Risks associated with visitors to the college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors to the college are not permitted without prior arrangement with a specific contact point (for example the college office) and are subject to the same controls that apply to staff, students and contractors entering the college. ▪ All visitors must sign a contract tracing log book. ▪ Physical distancing of 2 metres to be maintained with visitors (where possible). ▪ Implementation of alternative means of communication other than face to face meetings.
Hallways / Stairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requirement for staff and students when passing another person in a corridor or stairwell that they are required to avoid any physical contact or participation in informal group discussions. ▪ In the event of a narrow corridor one person to use it at a time where possible. ▪ Walk on the right-hand side of corridors when moving around the college.
Administration / Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reception area is occupied by 1-2 secretaries in the college, the office space is large enough to allow for social distancing to be observed. Receptions are covered with a glass sliding window. Perspex sheeting which contains a hatch has also been installed.
Yard / Outside Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students and Staff are required to adhere to relevant social distancing requirements when engaging or returning from break times. ▪ Students and Staff are required to perform hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities. ▪ Minimising the sharing of equipment and requiring its cleaning before and after use.
Specialised Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students are encouraged to have their own equipment required for specialised subjects. ▪ Shared electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards are required to be cleaned before and after use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
Lifts (Where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where practicable only one person to use lift at a time (unless user requires assistance).

Poor Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information provided to staff and students as to why hand hygiene is so important, when to wash their hands and how to wash their hands. ▪ The promotion of good hand hygiene and the display Hand Hygiene Posters throughout the college. ▪ Provision for hand hygiene through hand washing or the use of a hand sanitiser. ▪ Provision of hand sanitiser dispensers at entry and exit points of colleges and classrooms. ▪ Provision of access to hand washing facilities after activities that are likely to soil hands for example gardening or certain sporting activities as hand sanitiser does not work on dirty hands. ▪ Provision of social distancing when using hand hygiene facilities including wash hand basins so as to avoid congregation of people waiting to use wash hand basins and hand sanitiser. ▪ Hand washing basins – decommissioning of certain hand washing basins so as to ensure social distancing. ▪ Provision of adequate hand washing facilities to meet the needs of the college population. ▪ Location of foot operated pedal bins near wash basins for disposing of paper towels. ▪ Topping up of hand sanitisers, soap dispenser so as to encourage college population to use them. ▪ The provision of air hand dryers and paper towels are used for hand drying within the college following hand washing. ▪ Displaying of posters adjacent to washing facilities demonstrating hand washing techniques.
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students are required to comply with social distancing regulations when using toilet facilities. ▪ Toilets, wash hand basins and surrounding areas cleaned daily and whenever there is visible soiling. ▪ Cleaning staff inspection of toilets and hand washing facilities at regular intervals.
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cleaning staff received updated information and training in relation to cleaning and sanitising areas in relation to Covid-19 virus. This included watching Covid-19 cleaning video supplied by the DES. ▪ Cleaning schedules have been increased in relation to the cleaning of high use areas / surfaces in the college. ▪ Employees are required to clean and sanitise shared equipment at the commencement and termination of their use. ▪ Cleaning station in each classroom.

