

Covid Risk Assessment



**Colaiste Nano Nagle
20 Sexton Street
Limerick**

V94 W P48

Section from safety statement:

Part 11	Covid-19	Version 6, 24/10/2022
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LRW: This position no longer exists

Coláiste Nano Nagle Covid

Version 6, 24/10/2022

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Covid-19 is a new illness that can affect a person's lungs and airways. The school is now in its fourth academic year dealing with Covid. Covid 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 schools currently is to maintain a sensible level of caution, taking particular care during the flu season. The school needs to provide a supportive environment for students where teachers 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. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission (when a person is displaying no symptoms) occurs.

Vaccination: Have now been offered to the public. This will help to reduce the spread of Covid.

Who Might be harmed? Trustees, Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principal, Teachers, Staff, Students, Visitors, Contractors, Parents / Guardians.

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.

Note: Staff, parents and students (as age appropriate) 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

Updated Risk Assessments to minimize the risk of being exposed to Covid-19

The process involved consultation with all school staff.

Methodology used for hazard identification and control

In line with the requirements of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (section 19) it is the policy of the BoM in Colaiste Nano Nagle to address significant hazards and risks in the workplace, to assess the risks to safety, health and welfare and to control these risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

The Board is committed to the ongoing identification of hazards, the assessment of the appropriate risks and the introduction of controls to deal with them. In addition, staff members are involved and participate in safety, health and welfare issues within the school and are encouraged to identify and report any potential hazards that may exist and to ensure that a risk assessment is carried out.

This revised Risk Assessment includes all relevant updates and necessary control measures to minimise the risk of staff and others being exposed to Covid-19 and these will be incorporated into the Safety Statement for Colaiste Nano Nagle in line with requirements of section 20 of the 2005 Act.

It is envisaged that additional reviews will be undertaken on a regular basis and in line with Government and public health advice to ensure that all information remains accurate, that controls are appropriate and where necessary risks are reassessed.

A **hazard** is anything with the potential to cause harm to the safety, health or welfare of staff, students, visitors and contractors – a wet or slippery floor, an unguarded machine, stressful work, a blocked entrance, hazardous chemicals etc. Hazards may be classified as physical, chemical, biological, environmental or human.

A **risk** is the likelihood that someone will be harmed by a hazard and the severity of that harm.

Control measures:

A control measure is an applied measure that reduces the level of risk. Control measures can be applied at the planning stage, can comprise physical measures, can be management issues and can include training. Good control measures will require a combination of some or all of these.

Control measure principles:

Schedule 3 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 lists the Principles of Prevention and the Board of Management undertakes to apply these principles (where practicable) in dealing with all risks within the school:

- Avoidance of risks
- Evaluation of unavoidable risks
- Combating of risks at source
- Adaptation of work to the individual
- Adaptation of workplace to technical progress
- Replacement of dangerous articles, substances or systems of work by safe or less dangerous articles, substances or systems of work
- Priority to collective protective measures over individual protective measures
- Development of an adequate prevention policy which takes account of technology, organisation of work, working conditions, social factors and the influence of factors relating to the working environment
- Appropriate training and instructions to employees.

When the safety audit identifies hazards, it is necessary to evaluate and rank them so that they can be controlled in an orderly way. The risk of a hazard is a measure of the likelihood or probability of an accident coupled with the severity of the injury or loss. The risk potential of each hazard was assessed (by ranking) by giving numerical values of between 1 and 5 to both the **severity** of the consequences and the **probability** of the event occurring. When the severity numerical factor and the probability numerical factor were multiplied together, they produced a number between 1 and 25 thereby producing the numerical values outlined in **risk rating** chart below.

Severity x Probability = Risk Rating

Severity

Severity Rating	Interpretation	Numerical Value
Fatality or Catastrophic	Single or multiple fatalities, widespread illness, large scale property or equipment damage	5
Major	Serious injury or illness, significant property or equipment damage	4
Moderate	Injury and damage to property	3
Minor	Minor injury or illness, minor property or equipment damage	2
Trivial	No significant injury or illness, no significant property or equipment damage	1

Probability/Likelihood

Probability Rating	Interpretation	Numerical Value
Inevitable	Likely to occur either immediately or in the short term	5
Very Likely	Could occur in time or if repeated enough	4
Likely	Likely to occur	3
Unlikely	Though unlikely, may occur over time	2
Rare	Unlikely to occur at all	1

Risk Rating

Numerical Value Severity x Probability	Descriptive risk rating	Interpretation
16 – 25	<p style="text-align: center;">Emergency –Extremely serious, (ES)</p> <p>If an incident were to occur, it would be likely that a permanent, debilitating injury or death would result</p>	<p>Risks are unacceptable and immediate action required justifying special maintenance. Activity should be halted and stopped until the hazard is eliminated or appropriate risk controls are put in place.</p>
11 – 15	<p style="text-align: center;">Severe and Serious (H- High)</p> <p>If an incident were to occur, it would be likely that an injury requiring medical treatment would result.</p>	<p>Activity can proceed but substantial efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently within a defined time period and it might be necessary to consider suspending or restricting the activity or to apply interim control measures until this has been completed.</p>
6 – 10	<p style="text-align: center;">Medium (M- Medium)</p> <p>If an incident were to occur, there would be some chance that an injury requiring First Aid treatment would result</p>	<p>Activity can proceed but consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be lowered. Control measures must be monitored and reviewed as required to ensure they remain suitable and sufficient.</p>
1 – 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Trivial or Negligible (N- Negligible)</p> <p>If an incident were to occur, there would be little likelihood that an injury would result</p>	<p>No additional controls are necessary as these risks are considered acceptable. Activity should be regularly reviewed to ensure there is no change to the risk rating and that controls are maintained.</p>

***Note:** A numerical rating has been used in column 4 of the risk assessment sheets to describe the risk potential for the hazard identified This method has been used in an attempt to ensure that the levels of risk will be understood and clear to all those operating within the school

Who may be affected?	Identified Risks	Risk Communication, Education and Training Controls	Risk Rating with controls	Action implementation
Staff	<p>Spread of Covid-19 virus</p> <p>Persons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age and over • have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer • pregnant women <p>Known effects of the coronavirus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above) • A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties • Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste •Death 	<p>The Board of Management has developed a Covid school response plan for the prevention and mitigation of Covid-19 following a risk assessment of the school facility. This plan highlights the measures necessary to protect the health and safety of staff in re-opening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The staff will be consulted regarding the action plan for the prevention and mitigation of Covid-19 within the school and all staff will be informed about the measures being introduced. - There will be a heightened awareness by staff, parents/guardians and students (age appropriate) on how to protect themselves and each other as well as how to recognise and report symptoms of COVID-19 infection. - Communication of risks to teachers, staff, students, parents / guardians. - Advice to teachers, staff, students, parents / guardians of the need to stay at home if feeling unwell with Covid like symptoms <p>The Board of Management will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement a Covid-19 Policy and Response Plan if it needs to be reintroduced. - Ensure that all staff receive the necessary training provided by the DES where necessary. - Display posters and information to increase awareness of Covid-19 among staff and pupils from the DES if needed during Flu season. - Facilitate Covid-19 Induction training for all staff. (All staff watched the DES Post Primary Induction Video before returning to school along with onsite training.) If any covid measures need to be reintroduced at any stage staff will be ready. New staff will be trained. - Ensure all students complete Covid-19 Induction Training if needed. - Promote safe individual practices within the school e.g. regular handwashing, respiratory hygiene and social distancing between staff. - Emphasise the effectiveness of adopting protective measures -especially good personal hygiene 	<p>N</p> <p>Negligible</p> <p>2x1=2</p> <p>N</p> <p>Negligible</p> <p>2x1=2</p>	<p>Board of Management Principal Staff</p>
<p><u>Risk Level Calculation</u></p> <p>(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality</p> <p>(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable</p> <p>(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b)</p>		<p><u>Risk Level Action</u></p> <p>1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable</p> <p>6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring</p> <p>11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control</p> <p>16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately</p>		
<p><u>Assessment Date:</u> Oct, 2022</p>		<p><u>Assessor's Name:</u></p>		

Who may be affected?	Identified Risks	Hygiene		Risk Rating with controls	Action Implementation
		Controls			
All staff Students Visitors Contractors Public	Spread of Covid-19 virus Persons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age and over • have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer • pregnant women Known effects of the coronavirus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above) • A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties • Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste • Death 	The BoM will ensure that all staff can wash their hands regularly. Soap and appropriate sanitiser will be available throughout the school (if sanitizers need to be reintroduced). Staff and students should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wash their hands properly and often. Hands should be washed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After coughing or sneezing ○ Before and after eating or preparing food ○ Before and after using protective gloves ○ Before and after being on public transport ○ When arriving and leaving the school campus ○ After toilet use ✓ Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (at elbow) when coughing and sneezing. ✓ Put used tissues into a bin and wash their hands ✓ Develop a routine of increased cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces 		2x3 = 6 M Requires monitoring	Board of Management Principal Deputy Principal Health and Safety Officer Staff Visitors
		The BoM will supply required cleaning products, will ensure the correct use and storage of disinfectants and will ensure all products are stored safely and securely. The main supply of cleaning products will be stored in the locked cleaning store. Employees and students are encouraged not to attend work if they display any of the symptoms below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ✓ Fever (temperature of 37.5 degrees or above) ✓ Cough ✓ Shortness of breath ✓ Breathing difficulties 			
Risk Level Calculation (a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality (b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable (c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b)			Risk Level Action 1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring 11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control 16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately		
Assessment Date: Oct 2022			Assessor's Name:		

Who may be affected?	Identified Risks	Hygiene		Risk Rating with controls	Action implementation
		Controls			
All staff Pupils Visitors Contractors Public	Spread of Covid-19 virus Persons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age and over • have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer • pregnant women Known effects of the coronavirus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above) • A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties • Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste • Death 	The Board of Management will ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Standard cleaning and maintenance regimes are put in place and detailed records retained ✓ Toilet facilities are cleaned regularly ✓ There is regular standard cleaning of frequently touched surfaces) ✓ School equipment is cleaned regularly ✓ Bins are provided for disposal of waste materials (tissues, paper towels, wipes, etc.) ✓ All waste collection points are emptied at the end of each day. 		2x2=4 Trivial N 2x2=4 Trivial N 2x2=4 Trivial N 2x2=4 Trivial N 2x2=4 Trivial N	Board of Management Principal Staff Visitors
<u>Risk Level Calculation</u> (a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality (b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable (c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b)		<u>Risk Level Action</u> 1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring 11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control 16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately			
<u>Assessment Date:</u> Oct 2022		<u>Assessor's Name:</u>			

Who may be affected?	Identified Risks	Cleaning		Risk Rating with controls	Action implementation
		Controls			
Staff especially cleaning staff	<p>Spread of Covid-19 virus</p> <p>Persons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age and over • have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer • pregnant women <p>Known effects of the coronavirus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above) • A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties • Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste • Death 	<p>All cleaning will be undertaken in line with DES and public health guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cleaning staff will be instructed to wear gloves when cleaning and are aware of the need to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, both before and after wearing gloves ✓ Standard cleaning protocols will be in place and staff must sign off on all duties at the end of each shift. 		2x2=4 Trivial N	Board of Management Principal Staff
<p><u>Risk Level Calculation</u></p> <p>(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality</p> <p>(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable (c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b)</p>			<p><u>Risk Level Action</u></p> <p>1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring</p> <p>11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control 16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately</p>		
<p><u>Assessment Date:</u> Oct 2022</p>			<p><u>Assessor's Name:</u></p>		

Who may be affected?	Identified Risks	Hand Sanitizer Controls	Risk Rating with controls	Action implementation
Staff	<p>Risk of Hand sanitizer being ingested</p> <p>Risk of slips or falls due to spillage of hand sanitisers at dispenser locations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the event that measures need to be reintroduced students will need 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 technique to teachers, SNA, staff, contractors and students. - Care will be taken to clean up any hand sanitiser spills to prevent risk of falls. Only if measures need to be reintroduced. 	<p>1x1=1 N</p> <p>1x1=1 N</p>	<p>Board of Management Principal Administration staff All staff</p> <p>Board of Management Principal Administration staff All staff</p>
<p><u>Risk Level Calculation</u></p> <p>(a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality</p> <p>(b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable</p> <p>(c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b)</p>		<p><u>Risk Level Action</u></p> <p>1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable</p> <p>6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring</p> <p>11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control</p> <p>16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately</p>		
<p><u>Assessment Date:</u> Oct 2022</p>		<p><u>Assessor's Name:</u></p>		

Who may be affected?	Identified Risks	Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19 Controls	Risk Rating with controls	Action implementation
Staff Students Visitors Contractors	Spread of Covid-19 virus Persons currently deemed most at risk of complications if they catch the coronavirus are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age and over • have long-term medical conditions – i.e. heart disease, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or cancer • pregnant women Known effects of the coronavirus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fever (high temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or above) • A cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough • Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties • Loss of sense of smell • Loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste • Death 	The Board of Management will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appoint an appropriate person for dealing with suspected cases, management. If a person displays symptoms of Covid-19 the following procedure is to be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If a member of staff or student is unwell, they are encouraged to go home. Parents or guardians of the students will be contacted to collect them. 	2 x1=2 N	Board of Management Principal Staff
<u>Risk Level Calculation</u> (a) Severity of risk/injury 1=trivial, 2=slight, 3=moderate, 4=major, 5=fatality (b) Likelihood of event 1=rare, 2=unlikely, 3=likely, 4=very likely, 5=inevitable (c) Risk Rating = (a) X (b)		<u>Risk Level Action</u> 1-5 Trivial risk Acceptable 6-10 Medium risk Requires monitoring 11-15 Severe risk Requires immediate further action and control 16-25 Emergency risk Halt activity and review immediately		
<u>Assessment Date:</u> Oct 2022		<u>Assessor's Name:</u>		