



Scoil Thomáis

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Infection Control Measures in Scoil Thomáis

Dear Parents/Guardians: This is to inform you that Scoil Thomais is following the advice of the HSE/HPSC and DES in relation to infection control measures following the recent concerns about Coronavirus.

The following guidance should be noted by parents/guardians to minimise the risks involved for all the school community.

What is Coronavirus? Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that can cause illnesses. Some of these illnesses are very mild, like the common cold, while others are more severe, like SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). Novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV A "novel coronavirus" means a new type of coronavirus that has never been seen in humans before. The coronavirus recently identified in China is one of these. This new coronavirus is being named "2019-nCoV". Symptoms of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV It can take up to 14 days from exposure to the virus for the symptoms of this 2019-nCoV to appear. These symptoms include: • Fever • Cough • Shortness of breath Treatment of novel coronavirus 2019-nC

The Department of Education and Skills has updated information for schools, preschools and third level institutions on Covid-19; provided by the Department of Health and HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre following a meeting of the National Public Health Emergency Team. **Here is the link to the DES website and advice section for educational settings** <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/advice-for-preschool-settings-and-parents.pdf>

Please note the following

1. Anyone who has been to affected regions in the last 14 days and has a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties or fever should self-isolate and phone their GP immediately.
2. Anyone who has travelled from the affected regions and has no symptoms should visit <http://www.hse.ie/> for advice.
3. The most important action we can take to protect ourselves from Covid-19 is regular hand-washing and good respiratory hygiene.
4. Travel advice for all Irish citizens is provided through the [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#).

Note - The Covid-19 affected regions are listed as mainland China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Iran and the following regions of northern Italy - Lombardy, Veneto Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont.

IMPORTANT - HANDTOWELS IN THE SCHOOL

The BOM has decided to remove all cloth handtowels from pupil and staff toilets with immediate effect. From tomorrow **Thursday 28th February** each pupil should bring in their own hand towel (face cloth size) in a ziplock bag and should use this towel after any handwashing in school. Foam soap is provided in each of the pupil toilet areas and this should be used when handwashing. Teachers will remind pupils of the need to use their own hand towel to dry their hands to minimise the risk of cross infections.

Parents are asked to co-operate with this directive and to also to show their child/ren how to wash hands with soap properly. Please also remind your children to sneeze into their elbow or use a disposable hanky if necessary. There is a poster in each classroom which shows the children how to wash hands properly and what to do when coughing/sneezing.

Finally, any pupil who has respiratory type illness should **not attend school** as a precautionary measure and your GP should be contacted for advice/treatment

Website Advice: www.hse.ie; www.hpsc.ie; www.education.ie

Again thank you all for your co-operation and please consult the above websites as necessary.

Signed: *Mary McGarry*, Principal on behalf of the BOM

26th February 2020