

Lusk Community College

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Coláiste Pobail Lusca

Lána Ráth Éanaigh. Bóthar an Rátha Mhóir,
Lusca, Contae Bhaile Atha Cliath.



25th February 2022

Re: Update Covid 19 guidance for return to schools following the mid-term break.

Dear Parent/Guardian & Students,

I hope that you are having an enjoyable, restful, and safe mid-term break.

I am writing to you to bring to your attention matters impacting the whole school community following on from recent changes to public health advice. As you will be aware, from Monday 28th February 2022, decisions concerning the wearing of masks and social distancing will come into effect. All stakeholders at Lusk Community College, board of management, staff, students, and parents, have worked hard together to reduce risk and to ensure that the school environment has been as safe as we could achieve during this time. With the proposed changes, we ask for your continued cooperation and commitment to the high standards which we as a school community have achieved over the past two years.

We wish to draw attention to the most immediate changes impacting the school day. Please be aware that while certain situations will change immediately, other measures will remain in place.

Staying at Home if you have Symptoms

The requirement to stay at home and self-isolate if you have symptoms remains – for students and staff alike. One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced, it cannot be spread.

School Finishing Times

The school has operated staggered finish to the school day in order to prevent large groups gathering to reduce the risk of spread of Covid 19. From Monday 28th February:

- **All students will finish school Monday-Thursday 3.35pm and on Fridays 1.10pm.**
- **Morning start times will remain the same as has been in place.**

Morning/Evening Drop Off and Collection

As a result of construction work on the campus, staff access to car parking has been significantly reduced. There is currently no drop off or set down areas on the school campus. As is currently the case, parent/guardians are not permitted to drive onto the school campus morning or evening to facilitate drop off or collection of students. Please arrange to drop off or collect students away from the school entrance to prevent congestion. Where at all possible, students should be encouraged to walk or cycle to school rather than be dropped directly to the school gate. Starting next week, Fingal County Council will begin work in providing a pedestrian access gate from Lusk Sports Hub to the school campus. This work will be completed over the coming weeks and along with the pedestrian foot bridge will provide another access point to LCC and RALET students and parents travelling on foot.

Prior to the break, students travelling by bicycle were reminded to purchase a reflective lights, bicycle lock and helmet over the midterm break.

Hand Hygiene/Cleaning

The school will continue to promote good hand hygiene and cough etiquette in the school. Washing of hands and the regular use of hand sanitiser will continue to be encouraged in the school. Students and staff have adopted the practice of wiping down chairs, tables, lunch benches, following use. This practice will continue to be encouraged by the school. The use of a one-way system within the school will continue.

Physical Distancing

Schools are no longer required to maintain social distancing. Over time the allocation of lockers will be returned to students.

Students are currently permitted to wear PE uniform on their designated **PE day only**. This measure is in place in the absence of the use of changing rooms. Until such time as student lockers have been allocated, students may continue to wear PE uniform on their designated PE Day only. Students should be in full uniform every other day other their PE day. A summary of the PE Uniform along with full school uniform can be found in the school journal.

Please contact our uniform supplier www.grantsclothing.ie where uniform items need to be replaced.

Students are aware of school rules in relation to the wearing of appropriate school uniform including footwear, along school rules in place dealing with earrings and facial jewellery. It is expected of our students, and it is their responsibility of the student to be within the school rules in relation to uniform.

Face Coverings/Mask wearing

It is no longer a requirement for staff or students to wear a face covering/mask in school or on school transport. Staff and students can continue to wear a face covering/mask if they wish to do so on a personal basis. This may cause worry and concern for some. However, I expect that many staff members and students will continue to wear masks in school from Monday 28th February. Please discuss this decision with your son/daughter in your own context.

With the removal of face covering/mask wearing, the issue of good air circulation and ventilation in classrooms is critical. The opening of windows in classrooms will continue in this regard. Students should continue to wear layers of the school uniform and school jacket where required.

There have been many occasions, over the past years, where we have become used to hearing bad news. This is good news for the school, and in particular for our students. It is to be expected that this may cause worry and concern for some students and parents. Covid 19 is still circulating in the community. However, the levels of personal responsibility and the conduct of our students over the past two years offers great reassurance as we move forward. I would like to thank the whole school community for your continued kindness, support, and encouragement.

Yours Sincerely



Pat Cole