Advice during COVID-19: Back to school Advice for parents





Everyone has been working very hard to ensure a safe reopening of schools for staff, students and their families.

Most students will be looking forward to going back to school and will feel happy and excited. Some may feel a little anxious about returning. That's a normal response at a time of change. Most will settle back in soon once they get used to the new rules and routines.

Remind them of the **positive aspects of returning** – like re-connecting with friends and re-engaging with school activities.

New rules and routines to follow to keep everyone safe:



- In senior primary classes and at post-primary – physical distancing procedures will need to be followed by all.



Staff in all schools, and post-primary students, should wear a face covering where a physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. Good handwashing and hygiene practice – important for all students.
Make sure your child knows to use a tissue to cover coughs or sneezes or to cough or sneeze into their elbow.



Primary school – younger children may not be required to practice physical distancing, but they may be organised into pods. There may also be new rules about drop off and pick up.





An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna Department of Education and Skills

Advice during COVID-19: Back to school Advice for parents



Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

New rules and routines to follow to keep everyone safe:

Encourage your child to walk or cycle to school if possible and safe to do so.



School transport – students will have an assigned seat and post-primary students will be required to wear a face covering when waiting for and when on-board the bus.

Schools will communicate directly with families about reopening. **Talk together** at home about what to expect when going back to school



Having healthy routines in place will help with the adjustment of returning to school. Encourage your child to gradually return to a school term bedtime routine.

Help your child to eat healthily, take exercise and reconnect with friends.



Students who have Covid-19 symptoms, including a fever, a cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste should not attend school. Please follow guidance on HSE.ie on self-isolation and phone **your doctor.** Make sure students know that if they feel unwell in school they should tell their teacher straight away.

Teachers understand that it hasn't been easy for young people to study at home during school closures.





Remember, we all have a role to play in getting everyone back to school safely.

For more see gov.ie/backtoschool