



To: All recognised primary schools

23 June 2020

Guidance on summer provision

Dear Principal,

A template for a School Covid-19 Response Plan has been prepared for use by schools in preparing for running a summer programme. The template can be adopted by schools as their own policy on Covid-19 Plan in the context of reopening for summer provision.

The plan contains useful information on issues including

- Planning and preparing for return to school
- General advice to prevent the spread of the virus
- Procedure for returning to work (RTW)
- Control measures
- Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19
- Staff duties

The Department is continuing to engage with the Department of Health and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and will update this template in the coming days reflecting the advice we are receiving, in particular on the issue of physical distancing.

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required in certain circumstances and the purchase of hand sanitiser will also be needed. Work on centrally procuring these items for the next school year is advancing. In the interim, schools operating the summer programme will need to source these items locally. The cost of these items necessitated by the operation of the guidance will be reimbursed by the Department.

The resources that are being issued now, and to be updated in the coming days, are focused on summer provision only. Given that the response to the pandemic must adjust and adapt to the circumstances prevailing in the country at the time, the guidance will be updated further in the coming weeks in preparation for the return to school at the start of the next school year. This will ensure that the best advice based on the most likely situation that will apply from the next school year can be given.

Yours faithfully

Dalton Tattan

Dalton Tattan
Assistant Secretary