**Health and Safety Control of Covid-19 Policy for Students**

**Introduction**

Under the Health Safety and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Board of Management of Mohill Community College as employer is required to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all employees in the school. The employer is further required to manage and conduct the school in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that individuals at the place of work who are not employees, such as students, parents/guardians, visitors to the school, are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare.

This policy is influenced by the need to minimise the risk of introduction of Covid-19 into the school community and to prevent its spread. Although it is acknowledged that no single act or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of Covid-19 transmission, adherence to this policy will contribute to the reduction of that risk of transmission.

In accordance with this policy, students are expected to comply with the standards of behaviour set out in this policy or as directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of Covid-19. The Covid-19 control measures are consistent with current advice from the HSE, the Health and Safety Authority, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Foreign Affairs and, as such, may be subject to change. Students and parents/guardians will be notified of any changes to the control measures.

Students are expected to comply with all directions from school staff in relation to the school’s Covid-19 control measures. Any failure or refusal to comply with this policy or to follow instructions of school staff should be dealt with in accordance with the school’s Code of Behaviour.

Parents/guardians are required to supply the school with a phone number/numbers of available person/persons who can be contacted at all times and who will be available to collect a student from school should the need arise.

**Symptoms of Covid-19**

Symptoms of Covid-19 are similar to symptoms of cold or flu. The most common symptoms are:

* Fever
* Cough
* Shortness of breath
* Loss of sense of smell or taste

More information regarding the most up to date signs and symptoms of Covid-19 is available on the HSE website <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/> .

**Standards of Behaviour expected of students to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the school**

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| **Standards of Behaviour expected of students** |
| Students are expected to comply with any control measures directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of Covid-19, including, but not limited to:* Maintaining a social-distance of at least 1 metre and where possible, 2 metres, from other students and staff
* Wearing a face covering. All students at post-primary level are required to wear a face covering subject to a limited number of exceptions set out in relevant Department of Education guidance. Face coverings must not contain any slogans/logos/images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community.
* Wearing clean face coverings correctly. Face coverings, to be effective, should be worn correctly – covering nose and mouth. Students should ensure that their face covering fits them correctly. Face coverings, to be effective, must be clean. For this reason, among others, they must not be frequently handled.
* Performing hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser on entering the school.
* Repeating hand-hygiene at regular intervals throughout the school day and when directed by school staff.
* Refraining from misuse of sanitiser. Hand sanitiser and sanitising wipes are provided for a specific purpose. Any misuse of either item to deface another student/uniform/furniture is not permitted. Please keep either product away from eyes and face.
* Maintaining good respiratory hygiene. In this regard students should:
* Cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing/sneezing and dispose of used tissue in waste bin and perform hand hygiene
* Cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) rather than into the hand, if no tissue is available
* Keep contaminated hands away from the eyes and nose
* Carry out hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials
* Not spit or deliberately cough or sneeze at or towards any other person in the school
* Not sharing materials or stationery, such as pens, calculators, rulers, etc, with other students
* Not attending school for 14 days after returning from travel out of the country in line with Government guidelines for travel
* Not attending school if displaying Covid-10 like symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice.
* Not attending school where tested positive for Covid-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice.
* Not attending school if identified by the HSE as a person who has been in contact with another person who has contracted Covid-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice.
* Not attending school if a member of the student’s household is displaying Covid-19 like symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice.
* Telling a teacher or other member of staff where a student feels unwell at school. In that regard –
* The student will require to be collected from the school as soon as possible by a parent/guardian or a person designated by the parent/guardian for such purpose.
* Parents must ensure that the school has up to date contact details so that they can be contacted by the school if required.
* Complying with any other such directions as advised by the DES and/or HSE and communicated to the school community.
* Co-operating with Mohill Community College Covid-19 Response Plan, including the following main points:
* Co-operating with one way systems (set out to support social distancing)
* Co-operating with seating plans in general areas and in classrooms (set out to facilitate contact tracing if/when required)
* No chewing gum and no spitting (as vehicles of saliva these practices represent potential high risk to others in the context of Covid-19)
* Sanitising own chair and table when moving in to another classroom
* Sanitising hands when leaving the classroom
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Students should be aware that the above is a non-exhaustive list. Students are expected to follow all instructions form staff which aim to prevent the introduction of Covid-19 into the school and minimise its spread.

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| When behaviour issues arisethe following necessary changes have been made to the existing Code of Behaviour* **Signatures:** teachers will no longer write a signature into a Student Journal. The signature will be uploaded by the teacher to VSware. Parents/Guardians are requested to view their child’s behaviour records. The student will be requested to make a note in their Journal of the signature given (date and reason).
* **Three signatures – Thursday Detention – following week on Report:** this will continue, with one notable difference – students on Report will not carry a Report Card which will be signed off on daily by Parent/Guardian. The student will be on Report and their behaviour monitored by means of Behaviour entries on VSware. Parents/Guardians are requested to monitor their child’s behaviour, particularly when alerted by text that their son/daughter is on Report.
* **Unsatisfactory Report Card – Friday Detention:** Friday Detention has been suspended for the duration of Covid-19 special arrangements. In the event that a student’s Report Card/Report Period shows no improvement in behaviour following Thursday Detention, the school will consider taking the next step in the Code of Behaviour which is Suspension of the student.
* **Suspension**: where heretofore a parent/guardian was required to return from suspension with their child, this step will no longer be feasible. A follow up phone call will replace this meeting.
* **Disruptive behaviour preventing continuation of teaching and learning:** where a student’s behaviour is preventing teaching and learning, a parent/guardian will be requested to collect the student from school immediately. Pre-Covid ‘cooling off’ zones or interim arrangements are no longer available.

Students are to be commended that the need for the above guidelines is limited in their applicability. |

**Failure to comply with the standards of behaviour**

Failure by a student to comply with the standards of behaviour expected to help prevent the introduction and spread of Covid-19 will constitute a breach of the Code of Behaviour of Mohill Community College and s/he may be subject to sanction up to and including suspension or permanent exclusion.

Any sanction or sanctions taken in respect of alleged breaches of the code of behaviour will be carried out in accordance with the provision of the school’s code of behaviour, the requirements of the EWS Guidelines on Developing a Code of Behaviour and relevant requirements of the Education and Welfare Act 2000. Sanctions will be proportionate to the nature, seriousness and context of the behaviour.

A student engaging in aggressive, threatening or unacceptable behaviour that creates or increases the risk of Covid-19 infection for staff, other students or visitors to the school may be removed from class and, if necessary from the school premises with immediate effect, pending any further action to be taken in accordance with the school’s code of behaviour.

Approved by the Board of Management 28th September 2020.