

Young People, Children & Education — Additional Covid-19 Guidance

Please read in
conjunction with
Covid-19 Guidance
for the Arts Sector

Notes

This is a living document, which means that as government restrictions and public-health guidelines evolve, this document will also evolve to reflect new government advice and changes to protocols as they emerge. All sectoral guidelines have been developed in line with the government’s [COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021: The Path Ahead, Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting](#), the [Work Safely Protocol](#), and the latest health guidance available from the Department of Health and the HSE.

Disclaimer

The information contained within these operational re-opening guidelines can change from time to time. It must not by itself be relied upon in determining obligations or other decisions. Users of this document must independently verify any information on which they wish to rely. It is expected that all business owners and management will have implemented the guidance outlined in the Work Safely Protocol for workers and employers prior to re-opening. The Arts Council, their servants, or agents, do not assume legal or other liability for any inaccuracy, mistake, misstatement, or any other error of whatsoever nature contained herein. The Arts Council hereby formally disclaim liability in respect of such aforesaid matters. The information accessible in this document has been compiled from many sources that are not controlled by the Arts Council. While all reasonable care has been taken in the compilation and publication of the contents of this document, the Arts Council makes no representations or warranties, whether express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information or materials contained in this document. Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this document will be subject to change. Access to and use of the information herein is entirely at the risk of the user. The Arts Council shall not be liable, directly, or indirectly, to the user or any other third party for any damage resulting from the use of the information contained or implied in this document. The Arts Council has endeavoured to attribute copyright or other intellectual rights to the rightful owners where such course has been appropriate. Where any attribution has been missed or overlooked the Arts Council, on being informed, will correct this omission. By proceeding to use this Arts Council document you are accepting this disclaimer.

REVISIONS:

Version	Date	Description
1	20/09/2021	Initial Publication
2	27/09/2021	Update on Pods where 2m distancing is required, Pages 10,11 and 13 Update on Ventilation requirements from 22 nd October 2021, Page 9
3	22/10/2021	Update in line with the Government announcement on 19 th October 2021
4	10/11/2021	Update on Digital Covid Certs Page 8
5	19/11/2021	Updated in line with Government announcement 16 th November 2021 and SI 596 and SI 597

6	19/11/2021	Updated to reflect most current information on Antigen Testing
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Chapter 1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Government Guidance

The COVID-19 situation in Ireland is uncertain and of concern. We remain vulnerable to a further deterioration depending on a number of factors, including levels of social contact, adherence to basic public health protective measures, and levels of immunity across the population.

The current level of COVID-19 is having a significant and sustained impact across all aspects of the health service, including in hospitals, Intensive Care Units (ICUs), public health, testing and tracing services, general practice, as well as the broader primary care services.

On 16th November 2021, following public health advice, the government has agreed a range of measures aimed at interrupting the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

The Government's '[Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting](#)' published in August 2021 outlines the shift in public health management of COVID-19 in Ireland as it transitions from a focus on regulation and population wide restrictions to an emphasis on public health advice and personal judgement and personal protective behaviours. **This movement away from regulations and population-level restrictions is only possible if individuals, organisations, and communities ensure that we adhere to best practice in infection preventions and control**, like observing good respiratory and hand hygiene, wearing a face covering in crowded and congregated settings and staying home and self-isolating when symptomatic.

The range of public health behaviours include:

- acting fast, isolating, and getting tested if we have symptoms
- [wearing our face coverings](#) where appropriate
- making sure that indoor spaces are well ventilated
- maintaining adequate social distancing whenever appropriate
- maintaining good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene

To protect ourselves and the most vulnerable in our communities, we should also:

- prioritise the activities we undertake
- limit our activities in riskier environments (indoor, crowded environments, where distancing is difficult)
- take regular antigen tests if we are asymptomatic and engaged in activities in riskier environments
- hold off visiting vulnerable people after undertaking these activities

People in age groups approved for booster shots should take up their vaccine appointment as a priority when offered it and exercise particular caution until they receive their booster dose.

Government has decided to continue with a system based on personal and collective responsibility. As such, it is essential that employees, participants, and parents take every opportunity to adhere to the recommended infection prevention control measures and to minimize the transmission of the virus.

The health and safety of employees, participants and spectators is the number one priority for the owners and management of events and activities. All individuals will need to continue to monitor the ongoing risk from the disease and take personal responsibility as they take steps individually and collectively in their everyday lives to keep this risk under control.

The use of COVID-19 passes to access indoor events and activities is an essential element of the overall response to reducing transmission and protecting our communities. **To maintain the current level of reopening activity, organisers and operators should ensure that they are checking all COVID-19 passes. Patrons and participants should ensure that they have their COVID-19 passes to gain entry to venues and settings. Compliance with this is a matter for all of us, and where a pass is not looked for, patrons and participants should ask why not.**

Central to these guidelines is a commitment to adhering to best practice in infection prevention control measures which are necessary to protect individuals and society, as well as supporting our continued progress towards a full return to operation of our sector as the epidemiological situation allows. As it may not be possible to eliminate COVID-19 completely, it is essential that it is managed in a more ‘mainstream’ way where regular hand sanitising, good respiratory hygiene, wearing of facemasks, good ventilation become normalised rather than exceptional behaviour. Compliance with these measures should not be considered best practice but rather the minimum standard required to protect our communities.

Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector

[The Arts Council has produced Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector.](#)

[The Young People, Children and Education Additional Covid-19 Guidance must be read in conjunction with Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector.](#)

Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector contains the following Chapter Headings:

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE**
- 3. PREPARATION**
- 4. CONSIDERING THE RISKS**
- 5. COMMUNICATIONS**
- 6. WORKERS HEALTH**
- 7. ATTENDEE HEALTH**
- 8. PERSONAL AND RESPIRATORY HYGIENE**
- 9. PHYSICAL DISTANCING**
- 10. HEATING/VENTILATION/AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS**
- 11. CLEANING TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION**

12. SUSPECTED CASE AND OUTBREAK RESPONSE PLANNING

13. SUMMARY OF FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEASURES

Appendix 1. Risk Assessment Sample

Appendix 2. Alcohol-based Hand Sanitiser: Advice for safe use

Appendix 3. Ventilation Protocol – *Work Safely*

Appendix 4. Guidance on non-healthcare building ventilation during Covid -19 v3.0 18/11/2021 - Summary Key Points

Appendix 5. Artist and Performers Risk Assessment and Covid-19 Plans

Appendix 6. Patron Screening

Appendix 7. Key Reference Documents

Aim of this document

The primary aim of the Arts Council’s Young People, Children and Education (YPCE) Additional Covid-19 Guidance is to set out the current public health measures that are in place for organised arts and culture activities for children and young people from early childhood through to young adulthood.

The document has been prepared in the broader context of the government’s [COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021: The Path Ahead](#), and updated by [Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting](#), and the [Work Safely Protocol](#). This guidance should be read in conjunction with those documents and any future government advice in relation to COVID-19.

The Arts Council recognises the value of arts and cultural participation among children and young people and acknowledges their fundamental right to participate in the arts. As society continues to re-open, it is important to ensure children and young people have opportunities to take part, and to access a range of arts activities through which they can express and enjoy themselves and develop their skills.

Children and young people participate in the arts in early learning and care settings, schools, and other education and youth work settings. These opportunities are sometimes offered in partnership with independent and community providers. Other activities are offered outside of mainstream education or youth work settings and are led by artists, specialist teachers and facilitators working across a range of organisations and community settings.

Participation by children and young people in organised arts and culture activities includes attending arts events, activities, festivals, performances, and exhibitions designed for them; taking part in formal classes leading to specialist exams (such as graded music or ballet exams); taking part in classes and workshops that develop their artistic, social, and personal interests and skills; and taking part in rehearsals and performances.

This document links you to the relevant sectoral guidance for the various settings in which children and young people may encounter the arts. It also lays out the guidance for independent and community providers for whom sectoral guidance is not otherwise available.

Government Guidance recognises the well-being concerns arising from the pandemic for all of society, in particular the challenges experienced by children. It also recognises the important role of the arts in contributing to our resilience and recovery.

The arts provide children and young people with opportunities to express themselves, develop their skills, have fun, and make friends in a safe and friendly environment. The arts nurture young people's development in the broadest sense through opportunities to communicate ideas in different forms and respond to the ideas and experiences of others.

In addition to the important role of the arts in nurturing children and young people's well-being, arts practices also demand technical competence, and for young people who wish to achieve a high level of competence in an artistic field, or to develop a career in the arts and creative industries, it is important that they can avail of opportunities to learn and train at key stages in their development. Otherwise, they are likely to experience barriers to developing their careers at home and abroad.

Not all arts areas are fully catered for within the school curriculum or in the funded youth-work sector for which guidance has previously been developed, and young people at times rely on accessing education and training opportunities outside of these contexts, including through organisations funded by the Arts Council or directly by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, through local authorities and through independent providers.

Relevant sectoral guidance

- For arts activities taking place in early learning and care settings, please see the guidance for the early learning and care sector here:
[First 5 \(government of Ireland\) HERE.](#)
[HPSC childcare guidance HERE.](#)
- For arts activities taking place in primary, post-primary and other education settings that operate under the Department of Education, please see the guidance available here:
[HPSC HERE.](#)
[Coronavirus / Covid-19 - Department of Education and Skills](#)
- For arts activities taking place in publicly funded youth work settings, please see the guidance available: [HERE.](#)
- For arts activities taking place in further and higher education settings, please see the guidance available [HERE.](#)

Please note:

If you are a private school that offers similar activities to those offered in further and higher education settings, such as music tuition and grade exams, you should observe the same protocols and guidance as are set out for the publicly funded sector.

If your activity is relevant to a range of sectors, please ensure compliance with all relevant guidance with the over-arching aim of ensuring activities are conducted safely for all workers and participants and due diligence is followed to avoid the spread of Covid-19.

Other sectoral guidance

In addition to the Arts Council's Guidance, links are provided to guidance developed by resource organisations and associations that is specifically tailored to the activities of member organisations. Such organisations can provide useful guidance on how the practical application of a broader framework can be safely interpreted for specific activities for their members:

- [Sing Ireland](#)
- [Youth Theatre Ireland](#)
- [Irish Association of Youth Orchestras](#)
- [National Youth Council of Ireland](#)
- [Irish Ballet Teachers Association](#)

Monitoring and Oversight (of this guidance)

This guidance has been prepared by the Arts Council in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. This Oversight Group will continue to meet following the issuance of this guidance to keep it under review, ensure it is updated, and to provide additional detail and clarification as appropriate. As a living document it is anticipated that the guidance will be regularly updated in response to evolving public-health guidance and emerging need.

The Arts Council, with the support of the Oversight Group, is committed to communicating regularly with the sector. All future versions of the guidance will be published on our website immediately upon approval.

Chapter 2. OVERVIEW

Arts and culture service providers for children and young people must follow current government advice relating to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic [Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting](#) and government guidelines on 19th October 2021 and 16th November 2021.

Services must remain vigilant in relation to public health advice and any changes thereto, specifically on hand hygiene, cough etiquette, physical distancing, face coverings and how to identify and respond to signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and effectively communicate such advice to workers, volunteers and young people connected to the service. All activities should adhere to all other relevant requirements and good practice e.g. child protection, safety and wellbeing of staff and volunteers.

The Table below summarises the measures that will remain in place from **22nd October 2022 and updated on 16th November 2021.**

<p>From 16/11/2021</p> <p><u>Covid-19 Passes (where relevant and appropriate):</u></p> <p>Everyone should work together to improve compliance with COVID-19 pass checking – if patrons or participants are not asked for their pass, they should ask why.</p> <p>Collection of contact tracing data should continue.</p> <p>Requirement for COVID-19 pass (vaccine or recovery certificate) for indoor hospitality, events, and activities – In so doing, operators and event organisers should have regard to the lawful basis for accessing such data.</p> <p>Operators of premises should ensure that they have an identified legal basis for verifying the vaccination status of attendees or patrons and that they are at all times complying with data protection requirements. In this regard, the attention of operators is drawn to the <i>Vaccine Certificate Check Guidance</i>, published by the Data Protection Commission and available at: https://www.dataprotection.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/2021-11/Vaccine%20Certificate%20Check%20Guidance_0.pdf</p> <p>For licensed premises, information on how to check COVID-19 passes for indoor hospitality is available in the Fáilte Ireland guidelines. For other operators, acceptance of a contractual requirement for the provision of immunity status information could amount to consent as a lawful basis for processing. Event organisers and operators should ensure at all times that they are complying with data protection requirements and, in that regard, liaise with the Data Protection Commission if necessary.</p> <p>NOTE: Further information on contract tracing is available at https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/contacttracingguidance/Contact_tracing_under_13s.pdf</p>

NOTE: Further information on record keeping in respect of each person permitted or otherwise granted access to a premises is available on the Arts Council's Covid 19 Guidance for the Arts Sector.

Self-Isolation/Restricted Movements

- Continuing requirement for:
 - Those with symptoms to immediately self-isolate and seek a test
 - Those with a positive test result to self-isolate for 10 days
 - Household close contacts who are fully vaccinated and showing no symptoms should now restrict their movements until they have 3 negative antigen test results within 5 days.

Note: The most up to date information on Antigen Testing is available at <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/using-antigen-tests/>

Social Distancing

Social distancing remains an important part of the suite of infection prevention and control measures. Although some activities may now take place at 100% capacity indoors (with a COVID-19 pass), it is critical that social distancing is still supported, particularly in shared areas like restrooms, queues, foyers and at entrances and exits. Organisers and operators should also consider the appropriateness of 100% capacity for their particular venue or setting including whether there is adequate ventilation etc. to support full capacity.

- Those awaiting full vaccination should continue to maintain physical distancing in private settings and should avoid mixing indoors with more than one other household at a time.
- No requirement for physical distancing between fully vaccinated people in private settings

Masks

- Continued application of current mask wearing requirements.
- No requirement for mask wearing between fully vaccinated people in private settings

NOTE: For further information on minimum age for the application of mask wearing requirements and recommendations go to <https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2021-09/Advice-to-NPHET-Facemasks.pdf>

Ventilation:

Ventilation will remain a core component of our COVID-19 response.

- The HSA has published a new COVID-19 Work Safely Protocol employer checklist on ventilation
- HSE/HPSC have updated guidance, including for non-healthcare settings, to include appropriate references to ventilation and extensive work is taking place with IPC teams on implementation and stakeholder engagement.

NOTE: For further information on Ventilation please see Appendix 3 of General Covid-19 Reopening Guidance.

NOTE: For further information on current government guidance please go to the Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector [HERE](#), Chapter 2.

Chapter 3. YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION IN ARTS AND CULTURE

The following is a summary of the reopening guidance from **18th November 2021** as they apply to Young People, Children and Education.

Effective from	18 th November 2021
Remote working i.e. online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone should revert to working from home unless it is necessary to attend the workplace in person. This means a return to the situation on working from home as it applied before 20 September 2021
Structured group work including classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remotely where possible and appropriate. Fixed capacity limits will not apply to these indoor and outdoor group activities. For mixed groups meeting indoors– with and without proof of immunity: Pods of up to 6 participants will be permitted (excluding adult leaders/teachers) Multiple pods will be permissible subject to protective measures. Number of pods will have regard to the size of venue and substantial social distance between individual pods or 2m distancing between individual participants in classes, face masks where appropriate, well-ventilated spaces etc. <p>Note: For more information on Pods and Bubbles see note hereunder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions on outdoor activities are removed.
Unscheduled interventions	Same as Structured group work above
Outreach / Detached work	Same as Structured group work above
Home visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home visits can take place
Residential	May take place. The services should follow all public health guidance with particular attention to the sector specific guidance set out in Failte Ireland’s “Guidelines to Reopening” .
Rehearsals and Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehearsals and performances may take place in line with the Work Safely Protocol. Youth and voluntary participants involved in professionally managed productions should follow this protocol.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional helpful guidance in relation to the Safe Creation of Work can be found on Theatre Forums website HERE
Large group events	<p>Organised indoor events and mass gatherings*are permitted where all patrons are immune (fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within previous 6 months) or accompanied minors (under 18). It is important that businesses should check photo ID when checking Proof of Immunity. There are some limited circumstances when this may not be necessary e.g. where a person is well-known to the business. Unaccompanied minors are required to present Proof of Immunity.</p> <p>*Indoor events and mass gatherings include conferences, trade fairs and exhibitions and large-scale business events involving external audiences, family gatherings etc.</p>
Work meetings	<p>Everyone should revert to working from home unless it is necessary to attend the workplace in person. Business events/conferences can take place once all participants show Proof of Immunity. Government regulations in relation to evidence of COVID-19 vaccination or immunity following recovery should be implemented. Organised indoor events and mass gatherings*are permitted where all patrons are immune (fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within previous 6 months) or accompanied minors (under 18). It is important that businesses should check photo ID when checking Proof of Immunity. There are some limited circumstances when this may not be necessary e.g. where a person is well-known to the business. Unaccompanied minors are required to present Proof of Immunity.</p> <p>Small non-social meetings, training and educational programmes may take place when it is considered essential, for the operation of the business, that they must take place face-to-face and as a matter of urgency.</p>
One to one work	Meetings may take place
Opening of premises	Having regard to public health guidance the premises may open (subject to numbers set out above)
Transport	<p>Public Transport returns to 100% capacity. Face coverings must be worn.</p> <p>Youth service transport can operate at 100% capacity with additional measures as below:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-assigned seating to ensure that individuals are seated beside siblings or group mates • Additional hygiene and cleaning measures on board buses, including availability of sanitiser • Wearing of face coverings for young people over 13 years of age, with limited exceptions for medical reasons or special needs • Contact tracing log must be in operation
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Pods and Bubbles

Generally speaking the objective is to limit contact and sharing of common facilities between people in different Class Bubbles (and Pods within those Class Bubbles) as much as possible.

Multiple pods will be permissible subject to protective measures. Number of pods will have regard to the size of venue and substantial social distance between individual pods or 2m distancing between individual participants in classes, face masks where appropriate, well-ventilated spaces etc.

To the greatest extent possible, students and teachers/instructors should consistently be in the same Class Bubbles although this will not be possible at all times.

Workers, Volunteers and Young People in Higher-risk Categories According to HSE Guidelines

Special arrangements should be put in place for workers, children, and young people in higher-risk categories according to HSE guidelines – e.g. workers with underlying conditions or those living with people with such conditions should be informed of their right not to undertake face-to-face work. A list of at-risk individuals is available [Here](#).

In planning a return to the workplace for workers in the very high risk (extremely vulnerable) category, a fitness for work medical risk assessment may need to be completed with the worker and Occupational Health practitioner (where available) and/or the worker’s family doctor.

Chapter 4. ADDITIONAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN ARTS AND CULTURE

Health-and-safety Documentation

All existing occupational health-and-safety obligations and documentation should continue to be reviewed to ensure they are aligned with the measures outlined in the national framework [Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting](#) and government guidance with respect to COVID-19.

Arts and culture providers should review the following compliance documents (in addition to the documents listed in **Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector** on Insurance, Safety Statements and Risk Assessments **Ref. Chapter 4**) which specifically relate to Young People and Children:

- **Training**

Updates to safety and health plans, safety statement and other relevant documents will have to be communicated to all workers. All workers must complete a COVID-19 induction training before returning to work. The National Youth Council of Ireland induction is provided as an example and is available [HERE](#).

- **Safeguarding Policies**

Safeguarding policies and procedures should be reviewed and updated to address COVID-19 if necessary. Current measures must not be adversely affected as a result of COVID-19 control measures. Organisations should bear in mind that existing safeguarding provisions will continue to apply to all workplaces, including when operating online.

It is also important that organisations maintain safe use of the Internet during distance learning and assist parents and guardians to be aware of their role. Organisations may wish to review their social-media policy so that it contains some guidance on remote or distance-learning activities.

For further guidance on child-protection policies and safeguarding, see resources available at [TUSLA](#).

Parents and guardians will continue to play an important role in the process of returning safely to children and young people's cultural activities. They will be critical in communicating and reinforcing good behaviours in participants and instilling good habits with respect to hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Parents and guardians should also:

- Make themselves aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor the well-being of the children and young people in their care and others in direct contact with family members. They should not permit participants to attend if they display symptoms.
- Be open and honest if they, or any member of the household, have been in contact with a COVID-19 case or suspected case, and not attend activities.

- Restrict movements and contact their GP if they or their children or young people display any symptoms.
- Complete a 'Return to Activities' form. The form is to confirm that they, their children, and any member of the household:
 - Do not have symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Are not self-isolating or restricting their movements.
 - Are not waiting on results of a COVID-19 test.
 - Have not recently returned from travel abroad.
- Ensure participants undertake any training provided by the arts and culture provider to highlight changes to the management and delivery of the programme as a result of COVID-19 IPCMs.
- Report to the COVID-19 compliance officer immediately if the child develops COVID-19 symptoms during or after attending activities.
- Read the organisation's procedures, and confirm they understand and agree to abide by them.
- Keep a contact log for children in their care.
- Avoid congregating in groups when dropping off or collecting participants from activities.
- Wear a face covering at all times when on the premises or at the venue.

Parents/guardians may also be worried about allowing their children to return to activities. It is important that the LWR/COVID-19 compliance officer for the arts and culture providers support them through this process as much as possible.

Contingency Plans

It is also recommended that management and workers, as part of their risk assessment, explore a number of scenarios that could arise when resuming face-to-face services during the different phases – e.g.

- A larger number of young people arrive for a scheduled session than had been agreed.
- Parents are putting pressure on workers to increase services.
- How do you prioritise those young people who can access face-to-face work and who can stay in the online space?
- A work colleague is not adhering to physical distancing/hygiene guidelines.
- Working atmosphere is becoming tense due to tiredness/stress/frustration.

APPENDIX A**PRE-OPENING PROMPTS**

The following is a non-exhaustive list of prompts to be considered around the resumption of full-service provision. Individual services may wish to use this prompt sheet to inform their own existing risk register.

ACTIONS PRIOR TO OPENING UP		
No.	Action	Completed
1	Ventilate all rooms.	
2	Ensure all waste collections are still taking place or if they again need to be scaled up.	
3	Check for rodent activity/droppings and set traps if necessary.	
4	Ensure heater/boiler timings have been updated.	
5	Carry out building maintenance checks – e.g. fire detection and alarm system, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting.	
6	With respect to canteen facilities, plan for staggered breaks and floor markings for queues.	
7	Check that dishwashers are not set on eco-wash settings (low temperature).	
8	Disinfect milk cartons, etc. that come into the premises before they are put in the fridge.	
9	Have designated area for opening of post, and gloves, letter opener and sanitiser to hand.	
10	Put a system in place for receiving deliveries.	
11	Inform first-aiders on new protocols in case a person becomes unwell or in event of a heart attack (CPR).	
12	Write up a cleaning schedule.	

WORK ENVIRONMENT CONTROLS				
No.	Action	Yes	No	N/A
14	Is there current capacity in the service to comply with the physical-distancing requirements? Assess the premises based on the numbers of workers and young people that may be in the building safely at any one time. If 'No', consider the following:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of flexible shifts, staggered shifts, extended opening hours, weekend working. • Redeploying workers to other appropriate buildings in the vicinity where such capacity exists. • Alternate workers to work between base and home. • Which priority service can safely be offered to young people? • Appointment-based service only in designated spaces where physical distancing is possible. • Extension of telephone and online supports. 			
15	As far as is reasonably practicable, can non-fire doors within internal buildings be left open to avoid the risk of potential contamination?			

WORK ENVIRONMENT CONTROLS				
No.	Action	Yes	No	N/A
16	Is there a documented cleaning schedule in place for each work location?			
17	Has consideration been given to additional partitioning/protective perspex screening between workstations and at reception areas where appropriate?			
18	Are there appropriate hand-washing facilities available?			
19	Are there adequate supplies of hand-washing materials – e.g. liquid soap, disposable paper towels, anti-bac hand gel?			
21	Is there an adequate number of waste bins?			
21	Has appropriate COVID-19 signage been prominently displayed throughout the work location?			

WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS				
No.	Action	Yes	No	N/A
22	Has access to work locations been restricted to rostered workers only, as far as is reasonably practicable?			
23	Has consideration been given to floor markings to demonstrate minimum distancing between workers and others to encourage physical distancing?			
24	Are work breaks staggered in order to maintain physical-distancing requirements?			
25	Are meetings held via teleconference to ensure compliance with physical-distancing requirements?			
26	Is the use of communal areas (meeting rooms) restricted to ensure physical distancing is maintained?			
27	Are workers aware of respiratory hygiene-and-cough etiquette?			
28	Do workers adhere to respiratory hygiene-and-cough etiquette?			
29	Are workers familiar with hand-washing technique/guidelines?			
30	Are all drinking cups/glasses thoroughly washed and cleaned between each use?			
31	Are waste bins emptied, cleaned, and sanitised on a regular basis?			
32	Are workers instructed to bring minimal personal belongings into the workplace to avoid risk of contamination?			
33	Have workers been instructed to clean and sanitise their workstation at the start and end of each shift?			
34	Have workers been instructed to clean and sanitise communal equipment (e.g. photocopier, printer) before and after each use?			
35	Is there a protocol in place in the event an employee becomes unwell and who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19?			
36	Maintain sign-in sheet in order to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.			

REFERENCES

Policy References

- Arts Council, *Early Childhood Arts: Three Perspectives* (2013)
[http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Research and Publications/Young people, children, and education/EarlyChildhoodArts.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Research_and_Publications/Young_people,_children,_and_education/EarlyChildhoodArts.pdf)
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- Department of Education and Skills and Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht *Arts in Education Charter* (2013) <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b2f7f6-arts-in-education-charter/>
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text> (article 31, article 13 and others)
- Youth Work Act 2001 <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2001/act/42/enacted/en/html>

Research

- ESRI, *Growing Up in Ireland: Key Findings: Special COVID-19 Survey* (2021)
<https://www.esri.ie/publications/growing-up-in-ireland-key-findings-from-the-special-covid-19-survey-of-cohorts-98-and>
- Smyth, Emer, *Arts and Cultural Participation Among Children and Young People: Insights From the Growing Up in Ireland Study* (2016)
<http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Arts-and-cultural-participation-GUI.pdf>
- Smyth, Emer, *Arts & Cultural Participation Among Seventeen-year-olds* (2020)
[http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Publications/Research_reports/Arts and Cultural Participation 2020.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Publications/Research_reports/Arts_and_Cultural_Participation_2020.pdf)

Government-issued Guidance

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, [*Work Safely Protocol*](#)
- Government of Ireland, [*COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021: The Path Ahead*](#) and [*Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting*](#)
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/58393-guidance-for-youth-organisations-on-resuming-full-services-after-covid-19/> (Sept, 2021)

- **PHECC COVID-19 Advisory**
https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Publications_and_Resources/Newsletters/Newsletter_Items/2020/PHECC_COVID_19_Advisory_v1.aspx

Organisational-issued Guidance

- **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann:** Education Module and Guidelines
- **Dance Ireland:** [guide to resources and assistance](#)
- **Irish Association of Youth Orchestras:** [COVID-19 resources](#)
- **Irish Ballet Teachers Association (IBTA):** [guidance on main web page for ballet in relation to phased reopening](#)
- **Irish Museums Association:** [planning for reopening guidelines](#)
- **National Youth Council of Ireland:** [COVID-19 supporting information for youth organisations, young people, and youth workers](#)
- **Screen Producers Ireland:** [Return-to-production guidelines](#)
- **Theatre Forum:** [reopening arts centres guidelines](#)
- **Youth Theatre Ireland:** [COVID-19 guidance and resources](#)

Mental Health Supports

- **A Lust for Life:** Irish mental health charity for young people <https://www.alustforlife.com/> + well-being workbook for young people.
<https://www.alustforlife.com/pdf/articles/ALustforLife-WellbeingWorkbook.pdf>
- **Children’s Books Ireland:** [Mind Yourself: The Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide](#) for primary schools.
- **Helium Arts:** remote creative-health programme for young people living with long-term health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. <http://helium.ie/projects/distance-creates/>
- **HSE:** Mental Health Supports and Services During COVID. <https://www2.hse.ie/services/mental-health-supports-and-services-during-coronavirus/>
- **Jigsaw:** information and resources in the area of youth mental health. <https://jigsaw.ie/>
- **Minding Creative Minds:** an organisation established to offer a free 24/7 well-being & support programme for the Irish creative sector. <http://mindingcreativeminds.ie/>
- **National Youth Council, Ireland:** [Youth Mental Health Signposting Tool](#). Includes links to various support services and information on training programmes, community supports and children’s rights.
- **Spunout:** Ireland’s youth-information website created by young people for young people. Includes information on a range of topics: education, employment, health, life and opinion. <https://spunout.ie/>
- **Turn2me:** free online counselling and online support groups for young people (aged twelve to seventeen) and adults. Peer-support groups for frontline workers and professionals. <https://turn2me.ie/>
- **Waterford Healing Arts Trust:** ‘surviving or thriving’ COVID-19 resources aimed at artists, arts professionals and arts organisations. <http://www.waterfordhealingarts.com/surviving-or-thriving-resources/>

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