



24 Feabhra 2021

A Thuismitheoir/Chaomhnóir, a chara,

Inné, d'fhoilsigh an Rialtas an plean do na chéad chéimeanna eile don fhilleadh ar sholáthar inscoile do dhaltáí bunscoile agus iar-bhunscoile. Tá na céimeanna breise seo forbartha mar thoradh ar theagmháil leanúnach le ceardchumann agus le comhpháirtithe oideachais eile agus teagmháil a leanann ar aghaidh leis an Roinn Sláinte agus Sláinte Poiblí FSS.

Dhearbhaigh an Roinn Sláinte agus FSS athuir gur timpeallachtaí riosca íseal iad na scoileanna féin agus gur féidir le hathoscailt chéimnithe tarlú ag an am seo. Tá athbhreithniú déanta ag sláinte phoiblí ar na bearta atá curtha i bhfeidhm chun oibriú sábháilte scoileanna a dheimhniú agus táthar sásta go gcoimeádfaidh na bearta coiscthe agus rialaithe ionfhabhtaithe, má chloítear go docht leo, pobal na scoile sábháilte le linn na tréimhse seo.

Beidh tréimhse ama idir gach céim chun tionchar na hathoscailte ar ghnéithe den tarchur pobail a mheas.

- Ar an Luan 1 Márta fillfidh na chéad cheithre rang ag leibhéal na bunscoile - naíonáin shóisearacha agus shinsearacha, rang a haon agus a dó - agus scoláirí bliain dheiridh na hArdteistiméireachta chuig soláthar inscoile. Ag an gcéim seo freisin tarlóidh fillleadh ar fhreastal iomlán leanáí i scoileanna speisialta.
- Is é an Luan 15 Márta an spriocdháta don chuid eile de na leanáí bunscoile le fillleadh ar sholáthar inscoile - daltaí rang a trí go rang a sé – mar aon le scoláirí Ardteistiméireachta sa chúigiú bliain. Déanfar athbhreithniú ar an dáta seo sa tréimhse i ndiaidh 1 Márta.
- Is é an Luan 12 Aibreán, i ndiaidh saoire na Cásca, an spriocdháta don chuid eile de na scoláirí iar-bhunscoile - scoláirí ón gcéad go dtí an ceathrú bliain - le fillleadh ar oideachas inscoile.

Tiocfaidh deireadh le soláthar an chiantegaisc agus na cianfhoghlama do dhaltáí i ngach catagóir a luaithe agus a thosaíonn an soláthar teagaisc agus foghlama i bpearsan do gach grúpa daltaí.

Tá sábháilteacht ríthábhachtach inár scoileanna, agus leanfar leis an soláthar uile i scoileanna de réir na comhairle sláinte poiblí a forbraíodh do shuíomhanna oideachais. Leanfaidh maoiniú agus tacú na Roinne de réir mar is gá do bhearta um chosc agus rialú ionfhabhtaithe i scoileanna chun sábháilteacht phobal na scoile a dheimhniú. Tá Sláinte Poiblí FSS lán-tiomanta do thacú le scoileanna. Tacóidh foirne scoileanna a cuireadh ar bun chun tacú le scoileanna ó Dheireadh Fómhair le scoileanna le linn an fhilleadh céimnithe agus ina dhiaidh sin.



Is eol dúinn go léir na hiarmhairtí an-díobhálach ag leibhéal an duine aonair, an teaghlaigh agus na sochaí a bhaineann le gan fáil a bheith ar fhoghlaim i bpearsan do dhaltaí. Tá fillleadh slán agus athoscailt shábháilte mharthanach ár scoileanna mar phríomhthosaíocht don Rialtas.

Glacaim leis go bhfuil an athoscailt chéimnithe dúshlánach do go leor daoine, le leanaí in aoisghrúpaí difriúla sna teaghlaigh chéanna ag fillleadh ag amanna éagsúla. Tá sé mar chuspóir ag bainistiú an fhillte céimnithe cúramach seo soghluaisteacht an daonra a theorannú agus srian a chur le scaipeadh an víris.

Iarraim ar gach tuismitheoir comharthaí Covid-19 a athbhreithniú, le bhur dtoil, lena dheimhniú nach bhfreastalaíonn leanaí le siomptóim ar scoil agus go dtuigeann gach leanbh na nósanna imeachta atá i bhfeidhm ar scoil.

Lean ar aghaidh ag cloí le gach treoir maidir le fadú sóisialta agus fanacht sa bhaile seachas turais riachtanacha. Is féidir le tuismitheoirí cuidiú le scoileanna trí bheith freagrach go haonair agus gan a bheith ag seasamh timpeall lasmuigh den scoil ag amanna fágála agus bailithe. Tá sé go hiontach go bhfeicfidh leanaí a gcairde ar scoil, ach ná heagraigh dátaí súgartha ná cuairteanna baile le bhur dtoil.

Tuigimid go léir an rithábacht a bhaineann le hathoscailt na scoile agus caithfidimid an deis is fearr a thabhairt dó le gach dalta a fháil ar ais chomh tapa agus is féidir.

Is mian liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl duitse agus don teaghlach as cloí go leanúnach leis na treoirlínte agus cabhrú linn go léir srian a chur le scaipeadh an víris. Guím gach rath ar do theaghlach leis an bhfillleadh slán i bpearsan ar an scoil sna seachtainí amach romhainn.

D'fhéadfadh a bhfuil thíos a bheith cabhrach:

Nasc chuig póstaer agus físeáin - <https://www.gov.ie/ga/collection/5572b-back-to-school-advice-for-parents-students-and-families/>

mise le meas

Norma Foley TD
Aire Oideachais



24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Yesterday the Government published the plan for the next phases of return to in-school provision for students at both primary and post-primary level. These further phases have been developed following continuous engagement with unions and other education partners and ongoing engagement with the Department of Health and HSE Public Health.

The Department of Health and the HSE have reaffirmed that schools in themselves are low risk environments and that a gradual phased reopening can occur at this time. Public health has reviewed the measures put in place to ensure safe operation of schools and is satisfied that these infection prevention and control measures, when rigorously adhered to, will keep the school community safe during this period.

There will be a period of time between each phase to assess the impact of reopening on aspects of community transmission.

- On Monday 1 March the first four classes at primary level – junior and senior infants, first and second class – and final year Leaving Certificate students will return to in-school provision. This phase will also see a return to full attendance for children in special schools.
- Monday 15 March is the target date for the return to in-school provision of the rest of primary school children - third to sixth class students - and fifth year Leaving Certificate students. This date will be reviewed during the period following 1 March.
- Monday 12 April, following the Easter break is the target date for the return to in-school education for the rest of post-primary students - first to fourth year students
- Remote teaching and learning provision for students in each category will cease once in-person teaching and learning provision commences for each group of students.

Safety is paramount in our schools, and all provision within schools will continue according to public health advice developed for educational settings. The Department will continue to fund and support as necessary infection prevention and control measures in schools to ensure the safety of the school community.

Public Health in the HSE is fully committed to supporting schools. Schools teams that have been put in place to support schools since October will support schools during the phased return and beyond.



We all know of the hugely adverse consequences at individual, family and societal level of not having in-person learning available to students. The safe return and sustained safe re-opening of our schools is a key priority for Government.

I acknowledge that a phased re-opening is challenging for many people, with children of different age groups in the same families returning at different times. The purpose of managing this cautious phased return is to continue to limit the mobility of the population and curb the spread of the virus.

I ask all parents to please review the symptoms of Covid-19, to ensure that children with symptoms do not attend school and that all children know and understand the procedures in place in school.

Please continue to abide by all social distancing guidance and stay home apart from essential journeys. Parents can help schools by being individually responsible and not lingering outside school at drop off and collection times. It is welcome that children will see their friends in school, but please do not organise playdates or home visits.

We all understand how essential school reopening is and we need to give it the best possible chance to get all students back as quickly as possible.

I would like to thank you, your families and school communities for continued adherence to the guidelines and for helping us all to curb the spread of the virus. I wish all students and staff a safe return to in-person learning over the coming weeks.

You may find the below useful:

Links to posters and videos here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5572b-back-to-school-advice-for-parents-students-and-families/>

Yours Sincerely,

Norma Foley, TD
Minister for Education