



27/08/2020

**Re: Updates prior to students returning to school**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Ahead of the school reopening in August, you will see below some of the measures we have taken to safeguard the health of students in the coming months:

- Students will be **required to wear mask** as per government recommendations. Face masks should not become a fashion statement, and shouldn't offend or intimidate other students.
- Students will be expected to follow government guidelines on good respiratory and hand hygiene. All class groups will be shown a PowerPoint and videos to ensure that they follow these guidelines.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school and in all classrooms.
- Social distance markings will be visible on the floors at various locations to remind everyone about keeping your distance from others.
- Staggered breaks are in place for each year group, Junior Cycle students break and main lunch are different to those in Senior Cycle. The following is an outline of the breaks:

<b>Junior Cycle</b>	Morning break 10.55-11.10	Main lunch 13.10-13.50
<b>Senior Cycle (including Transition years)</b>	Morning break 10.15-10.30	Main lunch 12.30-13.10

- ✓ **No student** is allowed offsite for any of the school breaks
- ✓ Each year group/class will be assigned a lunch and break room
- Cleaning schedules will be increased and all common touch points will be cleaned multiple times per day.
- Robust procedures will be in place to respond to a suspected case of Covid-19.
- HSE guidelines and Covid-19 Safety Signage will be visible around the school (classrooms, toilet blocks, common areas) to educate students on how to 'Stop the Spread' of Covid-19.

It is very important that you review the health of your daughter before her return to school watching out for signs of fever, dry cough, loss of smell or taste, fatigue and sore throat.

**Before return**

If your daughter has been in contact with a person who has a confirmed case of Covid19 or anyone who has been tested and is awaiting test results, you must contact the school to notify us and do not permit your daughter to return to the school without seeking advice from your GP.

Parents **must** inform the school if their daughter is returning from any non-green list countries and that they have fulfilled the mandatory requirement to self-isolate for 14 days following their return.

**Return to school post-testing**

Students can return to school if they have been given a negative Covid-19 test and are 48 hours without any symptoms. But any student who has tested positive for Covid-19 needs to remain at home until they haven't had a temperature above 38C for five days and if it's been 14 days since they first developed symptoms.

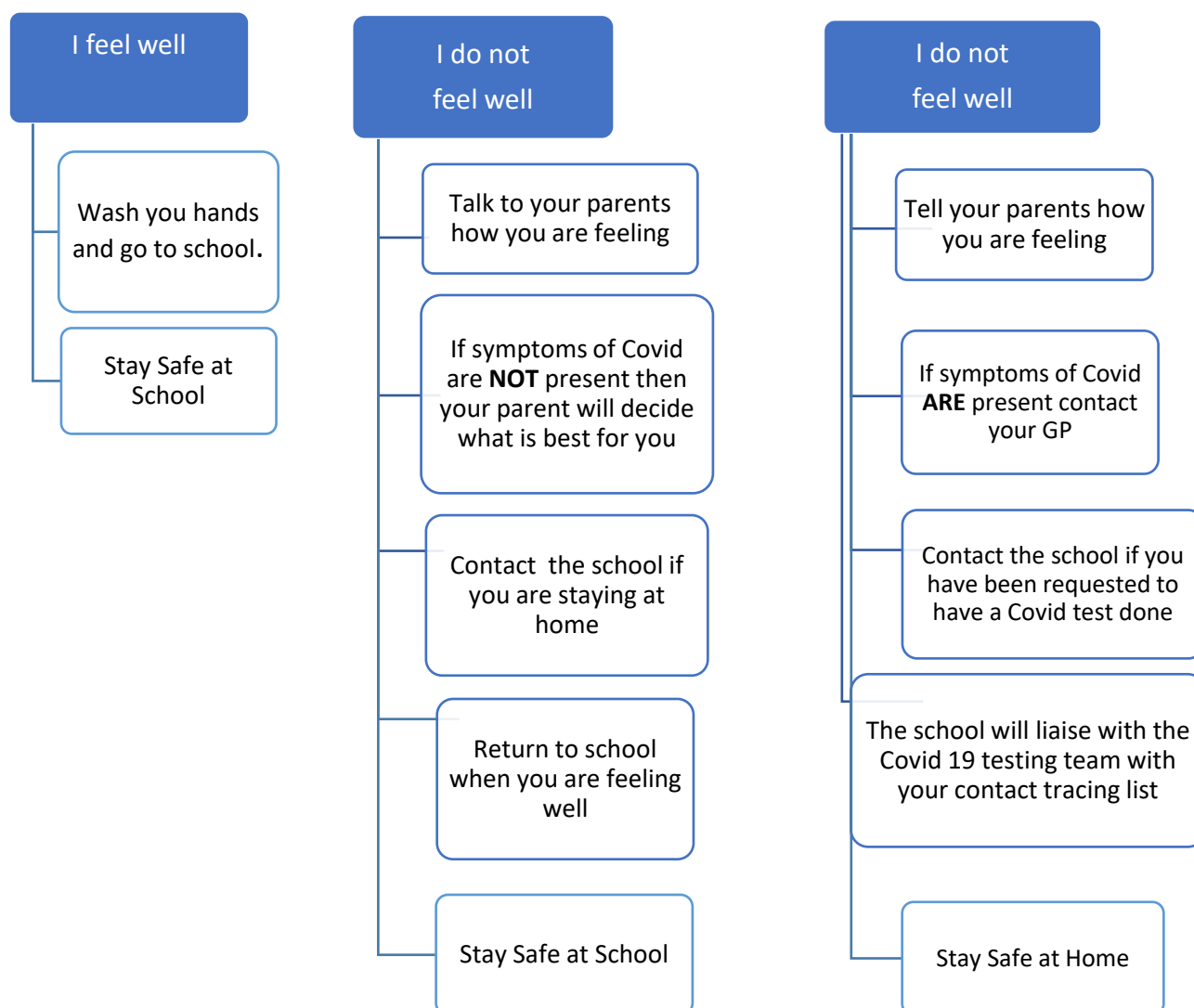
### Daily checks

Each pupil must take responsibility in declaring to their parent/guardian in the event of the development of symptoms as listed above. Should a pupil come to school feeling unwell and later has a diagnosis of Covid19, it would have a detrimental effect, not only to the other pupils and staff at the school but also put the lives of others in the wider community at risk due to cross contamination. **Please explain this important information to your daughter.**

### During School hours

In the event that your daughter develops symptoms during the school day, she will be placed in an isolation room separate to other students. You will be contacted immediately and your daughter must be collected immediately. At this point you will be advised to contact your GP who will arrange testing and contact tracing. **DO NOT** attend your GP's office but contact him/her on the telephone. The school is keeping a detailed record of all pupils and staff that your daughter has contact with during her school day and it will be made available to the HSE Covid19 testing team.

**Please ask you daughter to consider the guidelines below before attending school on a daily basis:**



### Other important information:

- Due to Covid-19, the school will not open to students **until 8.00am each day.**
- Full school uniform must be worn.
- Lockers will not be available for the time being – students (as guided by teachers) will be asked to minimise the number of books/workbooks that they bring to school each day.
- Students will be encouraged to have “project books” and writing materials only and not individual copy books for each subject.
- **Students should have a second face mask with them while in school.**
- Canteen facilities will be available daily, but with greater social distancing guidelines implemented.
- Only authorised personnel will be allowed in the building i.e. those who have filled out the Covid-19 Self Declaration Form.
- Parents/Guardians will not be permitted to drop items into the office during the school day. However, we will have a “**drop box**” system in operation at the entrance to the school to allow parents to drop items to their daughter, without entering the school. Further guidance will issue to parents. **School visits are by appointment only.**

For the coming academic year students will:

- Not be permitted to congregate in groups outside their class pod, or in designated areas.
- Not be permitted to share water bottles - pupils must bring their own drinks.

I ask that you go through these changes with your daughter before her return to school so that we have a smooth return for the girls in these difficult times. I wish to reassure all parents and guardians that we are committed to taking every possible action to safeguard your daughter’s health and well-being.

As always, our main focus is to return our students to a focus on teaching and learning. Extra-curricular facilities will be suspended for the present, subject to review by the Board of Management at the end of September. The learning environment that your daughter is returning to is inevitably a changed one, but the spirit of community and care of which St. Angela’s is so proud, will remain.

In the event that there are future changes based on government decisions to protect us further, I will be in contact with you again. As always, we are here and happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming your daughter back.

Kind regards,

*Pat Curran,*

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Pat Curran

Principal

