



Thursday 8th April 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Phased re-opening of schools following Coronavirus Lockdown - update for parents (Laxey / Dhoon School Federation)

We would like to thank you all for your patience at this difficult time.

As I am sure you heard this afternoon, the Chief Minister announced that primary schools will reopen to children who are designated as "vulnerable" or are the children of "essential workers" from next Tuesday 13th April 2021.

Under current proposals all children could return to school from Monday 19th April, but this decision will depend on the latest data and advice from Public Health. A final decision will be made by the Council of Ministers next week.

Remote learning will continue from Monday 12th April until schools fully reopen. Our school websites will continue to be the go-to places to access the resources and links to the live lessons, the timetable for which remains exactly the same as immediately prior to the Easter break.

From Tuesday 13th April 2021 children who are identified as "vulnerable" or whose parents/carers work in the sectors identified in the Essential Workers list (included later in this letter) can attend school. I would like to reiterate that children of essential workers should only attend school if you **must** attend your workplace and have **no** alternative childcare provision available.

It must also be emphasised that we should all work together to keep COVID out of our schools and the community and that children suffering from any COVID symptoms must **not** be sent into School. If in any doubt, children suffering from symptoms should be kept off school and you should seek advice from the 111 helpline.

Further details about symptoms and what to do can be found on the Government COVID website at: <https://covid19.gov.im/about-coronavirus/symptoms-and-self-assessment/>

How to Apply

Access to places will only be available to vulnerable children and children of essential workers who **must** attend their workplace and have **no** alternative childcare provision available.

If you believe you are an essential worker, as identified in the list in this letter, and have no alternative childcare provision available, please email the school as set out below. If a place is confirmed by the school, you will be emailed a short declaration form which must be completed and presented to the school on the first day of attendance.

The declaration form will ask you to confirm by signature:

1. You are an essential worker as set out in the Essential Workers list (this does not include the finance sector or construction sector)
2. There is no parent at home or other suitable arrangement you can make for the provision of care for the child/children in this application
3. You are required by your employer to attend work during the times at which your child/children will attend school
4. My child/children has not had a positive test result for COVID-19 or any COVID-19 symptoms in the 7 days prior to making this application and has not had any contact with any person with symptoms or in isolation in the same time period
5. You will only permit your child/children to attend school if they are not in contact with any person with symptoms (to your knowledge) or in isolation, and remain free from any COVID19 symptoms up to and during their dates of attendance (see www.gov.im/coronavirus)

Mitigations in place for the week of 12th April

Social distancing and additional cleaning arrangements will be put in place. We will continue to promote good hand hygiene practise to pupils of all ages and staff on a regular basis. The use of face coverings will continue to be encouraged for pupils and staff alike in line with the latest Public Health advice.

If your child is eligible to attend and secures a place, it is important to note that they will not necessarily be in their usual classroom with their usual cohort or usual teacher. Children attending will be supervised whilst they complete the same remote learning offer that all other children will be receiving at home.

Mitigations in place once schools fully reopen

Additional cleaning arrangements will remain and we will continue to promote good hand hygiene practise to pupils of all ages and to staff on a regular basis. Staff and students will still be able to wear face coverings should they wish, with ventilation being encouraged.

All of our risk-assessment and associated documentation remains available to view on the school website under the COVID19 tab.

Next steps

We would be grateful if you could let us know by email as **soon as possible** - laxeyenquiries@sch.im or dhoonenquiries@sch.im - if your child/ren fall within the listed categories and indicate if your child/ren will be attending their school from Tuesday 13th April. Please ensure that your email indicates which category of essential worker you believe you fall into, and that you have carefully considered the statements on the declaration form that you will be asked to sign (see above.)

Once we have reviewed your email application, you will be sent a brief confirmation reply with a declaration form attached. Please print this and bring it with you when your child/ren attend on Tuesday 13th April. If you do not have printing facilities at home you can complete the form at school on Tuesday 13th April. No child will be admitted to the school without a completed and signed declaration form.

The application process and declaration forms are a requirement of Government and are being used in all school settings as part of the overall Government policy – it is not specific to Laxey and Dhoon.

Children attending school should arrive in the playground as usual where they will be met by a member of staff. The same times of the school day apply as usual.

School catering services are intending to provide meals in school as usual for all children who attend school and payments should be made via ParentPay as normal.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We will still be here for you during these difficult and unprecedented times. We know you will work with us in partnership and hope you will help us in implementing the arrangements above.



Max Kelly
Executive Headteacher

Essential Workers List:

Work Sector	<p>If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education or childcare provision.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, the provision is only available to pupils who have no parents or guardians in the household due to working in a critical sector, and only when that parent or guardian are required to attend their place of work during the school or working day.</p> <p>It is essential that if you can work from home you do so, and that your child remains at home for the school or working day.</p>
Health and social care	This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the Island's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.
Education and childcare	This includes childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID19 response to deliver this approach.
Key public services	This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.
Local and national government	This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID19 response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.
Food and other necessary goods	This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).
Public safety and national security	This includes police and support staff, contractor and (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff.
Transport	This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and freight transport modes operating during the COVID19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.
Utilities and communication	This includes essential staff from the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID19 response, as well as key staff working in the telecommunications sector (including network operations, manufacturing and engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services).
Miscellaneous Services	This includes those that are required for essential commercial cleaning staff who are deployed in any of the working areas of the categories listed above in order to allow them to function.
General Guidance	If workers think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.