



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH
HELLO LITTLE PEOPLE'S BE SAFE,
BE SMART, BE KIND VIDEO



MESSAGE FROM HELLO LITTLE PEOPLE

WAHEY! A new school year is coming. It's nearly time to get back to school.

We bet you're really looking forward to doing all those fun things that school brings... seeing your friends, using your new pencil case... GETTING MATHS HOMEWORK!

What an incredible response we've had to our music video Be Safe Be Smart Be Kind.

Hope you've been singing and dancing along, and if not - start now! If you haven't seen it already - check it out...

See if you can spot the most important things to remember as you go back to school;

Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air!

Keep smiling, we'll see you soon.

Chloe & Michelle, Hello Little People



ONE MINUTE COULD SAVE A LIFE

It takes just one minute to register for the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccinations are effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalisation and help protect others.

Individuals aged 16 and over are invited to register for a vaccine on covid19.gov.im/vaccinereg

Children aged 12-15 who have specific disabilities, underlying health conditions or share a household with an immunosuppressed person will also be invited to register for the vaccine by their GP.



IF YOU FEEL UNWELL OR HAVE ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS, STAY AT HOME AND CALL 111

gov.im/covid19

#ForOurIsland

@IOMGovernment



ISLE OF MAN
Roieder Ellan Vannin
COURIER

3 to 9 September 2021



BACK TO SCHOOL

A guide to managing COVID-19 and the return to school for students and parents.

This year, there will be some extra considerations in educational settings due to COVID-19, but that doesn't mean that the new academic year shouldn't be an exciting and positive time.

This paper is designed to be a helpful guide to returning to school for you to pull out and keep.

Be safe, be smart, be kind.



gov.im/covid19

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WELCOME

We are excited to welcome students back to schools and University College Isle of Man (UCM) during the next week and hope that everyone has had a happy and safe summer break. Returning to school and college is a busy time in any year, but it is understandable that during the pandemic there may be more anxiety than usual.

Education is an important part of a young person's development, providing opportunities for both learning and socialisation, it is therefore important we get students back to school safely this September.

The Department for Education, Sport and Culture (DESC) has been working closely with Public Health Isle of Man and with head teachers to ensure a number of measures are in place to reduce risk.

All of the Island's schools and UCM will maintain balanced protective measures when students return, in order to keep students and staff safe. Our aim is to minimise the need for restrictions as far as possible, which means it is important for staff, secondary and UCM students to continue regular COVID-19 lateral flow device (LFD) testing.

It is hoped that these measures will help keep our Island's schools and colleges open for face-to-face education. While the risk of COVID-19 cannot be dismissed, our aim is to help students, staff and parents return to school confidently and happily – with a sense of wellbeing and excitement, not anxiety.

This paper, for you to pull out and keep, provides an overview of what to expect when returning to school this year.

I wish you all a fantastic and positive first term back,

Graham Kinrade,
Chief Executive for Education, Sport and Culture

THE EXPECTED IMPACT OF COVID-19 OVER THE COMING MONTHS

AN UPDATE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH ISLE OF MAN

As we look to the winter, pressures on health and social care are likely to increase, so we ask people to make sensible decisions to protect themselves and others.

Currently, wave dynamics indicate a significant fall from peak daily new cases to a current position of slower decline/plateau, with notable daily variation as would be expected for a small population. While the virus is circulating, with susceptible individuals and stable patterns of behaviour and mixing, this is likely to continue.

A fourth wave is predicted for the UK during Autumn/Winter 2021-22, although the timing of this is uncertain. It is reasonable to expect a similar wave here in the Isle of Man. The start of the new school term in September may lead to a further surge in cases due to increased mixing of a population group (aged 11-16).

Around one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms, so it is vital that we make use of Lateral Flow Testing. The latest Public Health Surveillance Report demonstrates that 67% of positive PCR tests are identified thanks to an initial LFD test – they are a really important tool for us to uncover hidden cases of the virus at the start of the term.



WILL STUDENTS NEED TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE?

No, at the present time there will be no specific requirements for social distancing within schools and colleges. Our aim is to maintain social settings and access education as far as possible.

WILL STUDENTS NEED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING?

Wearing a face covering can help to protect both the wearer and those around them and are particularly effective when worn in confined or enclosed spaces and close contact settings.

All staff, and students at secondary schools and UCM are encouraged to wear face coverings in school buildings and on buses.

Primary school children do not need to wear a face covering, but might choose to if they wish.

WHAT IF A STUDENT IS UNWELL?

Attendance at school is compulsory, but if a student feels unwell or develops any COVID-19 symptoms, they should not attend school, and should stay at home. You should notify school as soon as possible and request a PCR test by going to gov.im/covid19 or calling 111.

If a primary student is unwell but does not have the symptoms of COVID-19, you should treat them as you would with another illness, keeping them at home if the illness is severe and notifying school, but it is still a good idea to monitor them to ensure that they do not begin displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

If a secondary or UCM student is unwell but does not have the symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended that they take a LFD test for extra precaution for the duration of their sickness/absence.

WILL EXAMS GO AHEAD IN 2022?

Major exams such as GCSEs, A-levels and vocational qualifications are expected to return in 2022, however the situation remains under review.

WHAT IF I, OR MY CHILD, HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT COVID-19 IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS?

For questions regarding COVID-19, we encourage you to check the latest public health advice by visiting gov.im/covid19

If you have a concern about mitigations in place within the school or how they relate to your child, you are encouraged to contact the head teacher in the first instance.

MY CHILD IS ANXIOUS ABOUT COVID-19

It is understandable that some children may have picked up on wider anxieties about COVID-19. The return to school and a new school year should be a positive and exciting time with children happy and relaxed. If your child is anxious, check out our guide to talking to your child about COVID-19:

- Help children to feel in control – giving them specific things such as hand washing and wearing a face covering if they wish
- Explain the role that handwashing plays to help stop viruses from spreading to others
- Be a great role model and let your children see you washing your hands often and wearing a face covering
- Put news stories into context – that serious illness for children is rare and that there are lots of children who are well and healthy
- Talk about the positives – doctors have worked hard to help protect people using the vaccine, to keep us all safe and healthy
- Keep checking in with your children and let them know you are there to talk
- Further wellbeing help can be found at kooth.com and covid19.gov.im/health-wellbeing/are-you-ok/



A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS

The Island's schools and UCM will maintain proportionate protective measures this term, in order to keep students and staff safe, in line with Public Health advice.

These measures are in place to help keep our Island's schools and college open for face-to-face education. While the risk of COVID-19 cannot be dismissed, our aim is to help students, staff and parents return to school confidently and happily – with a sense of wellbeing and excitement, not anxiety.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL SCHOOLS BE KEPT COVID SAFE THIS YEAR?

All of the Island's schools and UCM have carefully considered protective measures that keep staff and students safe, whilst maintaining access to education and social interaction as much as possible.

Schools and UCM have undertaken thorough risk assessments and have implemented measures to support HANDS, FACE, SPACE and FRESH AIR.

There will be increased ventilation and extra hand hygiene precautions in place. Carbon dioxide monitors will also be used in some settings to monitor air quality.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE?

If a student tests positive once the school year starts, they will be required to isolate at home for 10 days, in line with current Public Health advice.

The student or their parents will be asked about any close contacts (those that they have come into face to face contact with for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more) at school, or anywhere else. Schools may be asked to help in identifying close contacts.

This year, close contacts, including classmates and siblings, will not need to self-isolate, however they may be asked to used LFD tests and take extra precautions to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

WILL STUDENTS BE TESTED?

Primary school students do not need to take LFD tests unless they are identified as a close contact.

Secondary and UCM students, and staff across all schools, are **strongly encouraged** to take two LFD tests each week at home.

Around one in three people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. LFD tests have been instrumental in identifying more than 65% of cases in the Isle of Man within the last fortnight. Early identification is really important in protecting our Island.

HOW DO I ACCESS LFD TESTS FOR ME AND MY FAMILY?

LFD test kits are now available to everyone in the Isle of Man, free of charge.

You can collect lateral flow kits from any participating pharmacy, or order online at gov.im/covid19

WHAT IF MY CHILD RETURNS A POSITIVE LATERAL FLOW TEST?

If your child or a member of your family returns a positive LFD test result, they should isolate immediately, notify the school and book a PCR test by calling 111 or visiting gov.im/covid19

If your child returns a positive LFD test, siblings and other members of your family can continue to attend school and the workplace, but you should remain vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19, and if the positive LFD test is confirmed by a PCR result, consider increased LFD testing for other members of the household.

OVERVIEW OF MEASURES IN PLACE



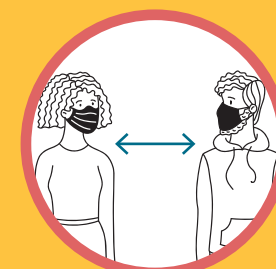
HANDS

- Primary and secondary school staff and students, as well as those at UCM will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands regularly
- Increased signage is in place to remind students of the need to maintain strong hand hygiene
- Handwashing and sanitisation facilities will be provided at all schools and colleges



FACE

- Students at secondary school and UCM are encouraged to wear face coverings in school buildings and buses
- Staff at all primary and secondary schools and UCM are encouraged to wear face coverings in school buildings and buses



SPACE

- COVID-19 is at higher risk of transmission in confined and crowded spaces. Individual schools may introduce one way systems, change the physical set up within classrooms, or introduce other methods of increasing space to minimise risk



FRESH AIR

- Carbon dioxide monitors will be installed in classrooms to support enhanced ventilation
- Increased ventilation across schools and UCM



LATERAL FLOW DEVICE (LFD) TESTING

- Secondary school and UCM students and staff are asked to take two LFD tests each week at home, starting the week before they return to face-to-face lessons
- Anyone who receives a positive result should isolate immediately and book a PCR test online or by calling 111
- LFD Kits can be ordered free of charge online at gov.im or collected from participating pharmacies
- Remember to log test results online at covid19.gov.im/general-information/testing-results



MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS

- If any student feels unwell or develops any COVID-19 symptoms they should not attend school, they should stay at home, notify their school and follow the latest Public Health advice
- The symptoms of COVID-19 include a TEMPERATURE of more than 37.8°C, a new, PERSISTENT COUGH, shortness of BREATH, or the loss or change of smell or taste

HOW TO STAY SAFE, HAPPY AND HEALTHY WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL

After a fun packed summer, it's nearly time to pack your pencil case, dust off your book bag and get back to school!

School means time to learn, play, create, spend time with friends and have FUN. This year, to make the most of your time at school and stay safe it is important that we remember:

BE SAFE

We've had enough of Coronavirus spoiling our fun! Keeping our hands nice and clean will help to keep us all safe.

BE SMART

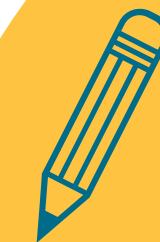
Just like we're smart at school, it's important to be smart and listen to your parents and teachers if they ask you to wash your hands or wear a face covering.

BE KIND

It's always important to be kind to others, but especially at the moment.

BE HAPPY

Enjoy your time back at school with your friends!



TO MAKE IT EASY TO REMEMBER TO BE SAFE, BE SMART AND BE KIND, WHY NOT COLOUR IN THIS PAGE AND KEEP IT?

BE SAFE BE SMART BE KIND

