



## **RETURNING TO CAMPUS 2021/2022**

### **COVID-19 Guidance and Information for Students/Staff and Faculty**



# Policies to ensure the safety of students, staff and faculty at The Law Society of Ireland

COVID-19 is changing on a daily basis, students/staff/faculty can keep up to date on the developing situation from the two Irish national health principle resources [HSE](#) and the [Department of Health](#).

[See latest public health measures in place now](#)

To ensure a safe return to campus our Professional Practice Courses will be delivered within public health guidelines through a partial on-site and online blended learning approach. Overall numbers attending on site will be monitored and controlled, maintaining mask wearing, hand hygiene, and increased ventilation in all classrooms.

We advise all students/staff and faculty to download Ireland's national [HSE COVID-19 Tracker App](#) and to use the symptom checker on the App on a daily basis.

[Register to get your COVID-19 vaccine.](#)

[See the latest statistics on the vaccination programme in Ireland](#)

[COVID 19 Vaccine – Your Questions Answered](#)

## 1. Symptoms, Close Contact, Testing

- It is essential that you do not come onto campus if you are displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Even if you have been fully vaccinated, it is important to remember that you can still transmit the virus to others (but remain asymptomatic yourself), and also that vaccination is not successful in at least 5% of people. For these reasons, if you become symptomatic, the above advice still applies
- The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following
  - [a fever](#) (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
  - [a cough](#) - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
  - [shortness of breath or breathing difficulties](#)
  - [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](#)
  - flu like symptoms
- If you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home, notify the Law School if you have recently been on campus, contact your GP and follow advice given. If you are referred for a COVID test ([HSE COVID-19 test centres](#)) you will be instructed to self-isolate until advised otherwise by GP/HSE.

### If you are a close contact of COVID-19

- If you're a close contact of a person that tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) and you are not fully vaccinated you need to:
  - get tested for COVID-19
  - [restrict your movements](#) (stay at home) for 14 days
- You can stop restricting your movements when both apply:
  - You have a negative test (COVID-19 not detected) 10 days after you were last in contact with the person who tested positive.

- You do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- [Follow the advice on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19](#). There is different [advice from gov.ie if you have arrived in Ireland from abroad](#)
- If you are a close contact and you have received a COVID-19 vaccine
  - You do not need to restrict your movements or be tested for COVID-19 if it is more than:
    - 7 days after your 2nd Pfizer-BioNTech dose
    - 14 days after your 2nd Moderna dose
    - 14 days after the Janssen vaccine
    - 15 days after your 2nd AstraZeneca dose
  - But you may not get the same level of protection from the vaccine as other people if you:
    - are immunocompromised due to disease or treatment
    - have cancer
    - have chronic kidney disease
  - A member of the [contact tracing team](#) will advise you on what you need to do when they phone you. [Read about a weak immune system and COVID-19](#)

## Your COVID-19 test

- If you are a close contact, you will get a text message with a:
  - link to the 'Book a test' webpage
  - 6-digit code to enter on the webpage
  - Most people will need 2 COVID-19 tests
- 1st test
  - When you book online, you will get a text message with an appointment date and details for your 1st COVID-19 test. Your 1st test appointment will be scheduled for as soon as possible. Stay at home and restrict your movements, even if you feel well.
- 2nd test
  - Your 2nd test will usually be scheduled for 10 days after you were last in contact with the person who tested positive. If your last contact with this person was more than 8 days ago, you will only have 1 test.
- If you do not book a test online
  - The quickest way to book your test is to book online. If you don't book online, stay at home and restrict your movements. The contact tracing team will phone you to arrange a test.
  - Do not phone your GP. They cannot arrange tests for close contacts. They can only arrange a test if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- [Contact tracing](#)
- [Close and casual contacts](#)

## 2. Access & People circulation

- Students, staff, members and visitors must adhere to all traffic/queuing signage. Signage and markings will indicate direction of travel and entry/exit routes.
- Lifts are designated for goods and disabled use only. Only one person should be in the lift at a time
- Walk on the left side of the corridor/staircases and maintain a 2m distance from others

- If people meet in narrow corridors, stop or reverse if possible to provide a wider passing distance
- If people meet on staircase, the person going upstairs has right of way. Wait at the landing/half landing to pass
- Where safe to do so common doors will be left open/hooded back. Use your personal hand sanitiser before using keypad for door release
- Minimise your geographical footprint as much as possible.

### 3. Face Coverings

- The Law School acknowledges that face coverings are not PPE but they have been found to assist with limiting the spread of Coronavirus. **We therefore require face coverings to be used in all communal and teaching spaces throughout the campus.**
- Visitors will be provided for colleagues in teaching and front of house roles as an alternative to face coverings where needed.

### 4. Hygiene

- Good hand hygiene is still the most effective form of protection in the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand hygiene promotion will be displayed on noticeboards and digital signage throughout the campus.
- Hand sanitization units will be located at the main entrance and available at the entrance to teaching rooms.

### 5. Cleaning

- Antimicrobial coating has been applied in common areas (door handles, bannisters, rails, etc.) as well as frequently shared equipment (keyboards, photocopiers, tablets, etc).
- Antimicrobial coating is an application of a chemical agent on a surface that can stop the growth of disease-causing micro-organisms. Apart from increasing the surface's durability, appearance, corrosion resistance, etc., these coatings also protect from harmful disease-causing microbes like viruses (including Covid-19), bacteria, salmonella, flu virus and the common cold among others.
- In addition, cleaning stations have been provided by the Law School in each classroom to allow for furniture to be wiped down regularly by users of the spaces.

### 6. Classroom spaces

- We have assessed each and every teaching room and shared working space across the campus to determine safe occupancy levels.
- Maximum numbers of students in any one session is determined by the available furniture and must not be exceeded.

### 7. Canteen & Coffee Dock

- TBD

### 5. Toilets

- Toilets, in particular smaller ones, present challenges in relation to social distancing. Where necessary specific instructions will be posted in the relevant area.
  - Always check first if toilet is vacant, if not - wait outside

- Be conscious about traffic on the corridor while waiting.

## 6. Fire Evacuation Arrangements.

- In the event of an emergency evacuation, you must:
  - Use the nearest escape route in the normal manner, ignoring any temporary one way routes. (Please note, you will be able to leave the building via any door as normal whilst the alarms are sounding).
  - Exit the building safely observing social distancing where safe to do so.
  - Disperse once outside of the building, and observe social distancing until the alarms are silenced but do not attempt to re-enter the building until told it is safe to do so.
  - Re-enter the building observing social distancing and sanitising hands beforehand. This may take longer than normal so please be patient.