

Covid-19 Information Notice – Update

27 August 2021

- As we approach the opening semester of the 2021/22 academic year we send our best wishes to all our students, staff, friends and members of our community and look forward to welcoming you to the College in two weeks.
- ACD will formally commence the 2021/22 academic year on Monday, 13 September 2021; the preceding week will be taken up with registration, induction and orientation events, beginning Thursday, 9 September.
- Given the favourable course of the vaccination, testing and mitigation efforts that have been undertaken over the preceding months and the tenor of government guidances on the return of higher education, **it is our strong expectation that ACD will resume teaching in September with classes delivered on a traditional, in-person basis.**
- We will monitor the progress of the pandemic and government advice over the coming months and be ready to inform you of and implement whatever adjustments to the methods and means of course delivery and the associated activities of College life are necessary. That notwithstanding, it is currently our expectation that there will be minimal covid-related disruption to our work in the coming academic year.
- As always, in our planning and operations, our primary concern is the health, safety and welfare of our community, insofar as we are responsible for these matters in our educational facilities and related activities.
- Under our updated covid-19 plan, we are preparing for the following scenarios, in what we presently expect to be the most likely order for them to arise:

Scenario A

The College will open and proceed through the semester with classes and associated activities provided in the traditional in-person format, adhering to Department of Education and Department of Health scientific advice, guidelines and protocols on health and safety in education and the workplace (provision of sanitization facilities, adherence to physical distancing guidelines and the like; greater detail on the precise nature of these provisions, as required, will be provided as we approach the opening of the semester and during the semester itself).

The College strongly recommends that all students, staff and teachers avail of an approved vaccination programme, either in Ireland or in their home countries, and asks that all who do so have documentation of this available to the College authorities.

The College currently expects its covid provisions to include the following, with ongoing review and adjustment to be implemented as necessary:

- Students to wear face masks and/or face guards at all times in the College facilities (students and staff may bring their own supplemental sanitary materials as they see fit);
- College and class materials to be provided in electronic soft-copy formats inasmuch as is practicable;
- Students to attend the College facilities only for the purpose of taking classes and essential undertakings and, once those activities are over, to leave immediately;
- Hand sanitization facilities to be provided;



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- Lecturers to teach behind perspex screens;
- A marked one-way system to be provided and observed in stairwells, corridors and other common areas;
- Adherence to current government-mandated physical distancing guidelines;
- Performing arts classes may require additional special arrangements; direction and clarification on these arrangements will be provided by Director of Performing Arts Deirdre Masterson this week;
- The College's Lead Workplace Representative for Covid-19 is Rowland Crawte; Rowland may be contacted at rcrawte@iamu.edu for further guidance on these matters as necessary.

The College believes the scenarios below are unlikely to be called upon and will only be invoked if required by the state authorities; they are set out here so as to provide our community with an indication of our planned contingency arrangements:

Scenario B

The College will open with a blend of traditional delivery physical classes and activities in small groups and remote teaching enabled by Zoom and Moodle. The College hopes to avoid this approach, but will adhere to the advice given in government guidelines.

Scenario C

If required by government mandate, the College will open with fully remote teaching and associated activities delivered by Zoom and Moodle.

Scenario D

The College will open under Scenario A or B, but will be prepared to revert completely to fully remote teaching and activities within 24 hours if required to do so.