

GMIT Public Health Measures for Duration of Covid19 Pandemic 23/09/2020

This appendix to the Student Code of Conduct comes into effect from September 1st, 2020 until otherwise noted by the Institute. The Institute reserves the right to update and make edits to this document to be in line with evolving National Public Health or Department of Education or Higher Education Authority guidance. This document together with all updates will be clearly noted by date and posted on the Institute's website.

At GMIT the safety and health of students and staff is a priority. This document outlines the protocols that all students must adhere to in order to protect our GMIT community from this highly contagious, malign, and dangerous disease - COVID-19. Everyone has a moral duty to avoid contracting the virus and inadvertently exposing those at most risk of the disease. As a proportion of the population have no symptoms when infected our behaviour is crucial in ensuring the health of everyone.

It is expected that we all commit to a strong regime of personal responsibility of behaviour to ensure physical distancing and hygiene, that will help protect all the GMIT community. In turn, GMIT has invested heavily in the provision of handwashing and hand sanitisation stations with an intense schedule of cleaning and sanitising of classrooms and common spaces.

Student Actions:

1. Before attending campus, students must complete the Pre-Return to Campus Form that is integrated into the student registration process.
2. Students **must not attend campus if unwell** or especially if experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms which include –
 - Fever
 - Cough (any kind of cough, not just dry)
 - Shortness of breath
 - Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If experiencing any of these symptoms, students must immediately contact their local GP or the Student Health provider for your campus, follow the advice of the GP, and stay at home and self-isolate and do not attend college until advised to do so by your GP. Self-isolation means staying indoors and completely avoiding contact with other people. This includes other people in your household, as much as possible.

Contact details for the Student Health providers are - Dublin Road Campus and Cluain Mhuire Campus 091 742228, Mayo Campus (Dr. Stephen Patten) 094 9021999; Letterfrack Campus (Dr. Alexander Michel 095 43465).

In addition, students must notify GMIT immediately by emailing covidofficer@gmt.ie or phoning 091 742708 / 0852092713 immediately if:

- **A positive test outcome for COVID-19 has been issued by any healthcare provider and are required to self-isolate**
- **Or if they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 (even if they themselves feel well) and must restrict your movements for 14 days.**

After the Covid Officer has been notified that a student has tested positive for COVID-19, contact tracing will be conducted to determine if there was exposure to other members of our community so that GMIT can assist Public Health to take appropriate next steps to

mitigate further spread of the virus. Consistent with GDPR governing patient confidentiality, the Institute will not share any patient's contact details or private medical information.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 must comply fully with all public health guidelines and must self-isolate for at least 14 days. Self-isolation means staying indoors and completely avoiding contact with other people. This includes other people in your household, as much as possible. See the full HSE guidelines - [How to self isolate](#)

Students who have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, or who live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 (even if they themselves feel well) must comply fully with all public health guidelines and must restrict their movements for 14 days. Restriction of movements includes the following – do not attend college or work, do not use public transport, do not have visitors at your home, do not visit others even if you usually care for them, do not go to the shops or pharmacy unless it is absolutely necessary (ideally shop online or get others to shop for you). See the full HSE guidelines - [How to restrict your movements](#)

If absent due to any illness, students should forward the relevant medical cert to their School office.

Please refer to the "Return to Campus Post-Quarantine Policy" for more information on the materials and documentation that a student must provide to be cleared to return to GMIT.

3. Students attending campus are strongly encouraged to download and use the [HSE COVID-19 Tracker App](#). The use of this app will greatly help with any contact tracing required and thus it is vital that all students use this app.

Prior to arriving in GMIT, students are required to complete a **daily health check form**. Note this form will also serve to record your presence on campus which may be used for any subsequent contact tracing work. **Thus, it is important that this form is completed for every day of attendance at GMIT.** This form is available here: [Daily Health Check and Attendance Form](#)

Students should keep interactions with others as briefly as possible, and normally at a 2m distance.

Students should be aware of whom they come into contact with during their time in GMIT, and are required to keep a **personal COVID-19 contact diary**, and this diary should be used to record details of the student's location in a lab or practical session (workspaces will be numbered and the student should note the number and date in their diary).

If a student develops close contacts when on campus, this should be noted in the Covid contact diary and in the online [Daily Personal Contact Log](#) - including locations, names of contacts and length of time involved. A close contact is someone the person has spent more than 15 minutes with and at a distance of less than 2m (even if everyone was wearing a mask), or someone who has spent more than 2 hours per day in the same room as the person, even though they maintain physical distancing and even if everyone was wearing a mask. There is no need to complete the online daily personal contact log for timetabled classes.

4. Students should ideally travel to campus alone. It is recommended to avoid public transport if possible, by walking, cycling, or driving by oneself. If it is necessary to share a lift or to use public transport, then face coverings must be worn.
5. Students must comply with the [Current HSE COVID-19 Guidelines](#) at all times. These guidelines include references to the importance of physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, the use of face coverings, the importance of hand washing and the avoidance of large group gatherings.

Large group gatherings significantly increase the risk of spreading the Coronavirus and students must comply with HSE guidelines with respect to large group gatherings.

The current HSE advice must be complied with both within the campus and outside the campus. Complaints reported to the Institute of student behaviour contravening Public Health recommendations will be considered, investigated, and may lead to disciplinary action.

Students must comply with any local restrictions on movement as determined by the Government and/or HSE from time to time.

6. Students must, at all times comply with the current GMIT health guidelines set out in this document while on GMIT campus or on Institute organised activities. These will be provided on the GMIT website and on signage/posters throughout the campus. The GMIT health guidelines include key points such as:
 - Everyone must maintain a safe **Physical Distance of 2 metres** or more. Physical distancing is designed to limit the spread of the disease by reducing the opportunities for close contact between people. The Institute recognises that maintaining 2 Metres of physical distancing may not be possible in all unforeseen and informal situations but ask that all students make every effort to abide.
 - **Face coverings/masks** are compulsory at all times with the exception of when physically eating a meal. Students must provide their own face covering /mask. Students are recommended to carry a spare face covering. Note that a minority cannot wear face coverings as deemed by medical advice. Students should contact the Access & Disability Service for more information on this exemption. In such cases, use of a visor will be required.
 - Students are organised into groups for practical work and must **remain in their group** when visiting communal spaces such as the canteen. Also, the students immediately around you at a practical session form your 'pod' of student contacts, and in so far as **practical you should stay with the same pod as you move to different practical sessions/different rooms.**
 - Students must comply with the Communal Spaces policy. *
 - Students must comply with guidelines regarding movement (e.g. one-way systems), cleaning of work surfaces and hand washing.
 - Students must **sanitize work areas** thoroughly before and after class and follow all directions from their lecturers in this regard.

7. Accommodation

Student accommodation represents a high-risk area for the spread of virus. In order to mitigate this high-risk, it is advised that students:

- Should not invite guests to their residences.
- Should not visit other residences.
- Should limit time spent with others in the shared space in the residence.
- Should wear face coverings in the shared spaces in the residence other than when eating.
- Must be vigilant to apply all other standard measures to reduce the risk of infection in such settings including hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleaning.

8. Students must not share personal items (pens, phones, etc), beverage or food with others.

9. Students who plan to travel or have returned from abroad must comply with [Government COVID-19 Travel Advice](#).

***Communal Spaces Policy**

Congregating in indoor communal areas of campus in groups of more than six people is prohibited.

This includes, but is not limited to lobbies, corridors, study rooms/spaces, canteen tables, etc. All students who are congregating in the communal space, must wear a mask, per the policy.