



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN - Cr Niall Ó Cathasaigh – Baile an Chollaigh

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR COMHALTAS UNITS & ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2021

1 INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are drawn up after consultation with various sources of information. However there is no sure way to prevent infection that involves face to face contact. This document is not intended to supply medical or legal advice; these are guidelines to minimise the risk of infection that will lead to the safe resumption of Comhaltas activities. This document is relevant to all units and members of Comhaltas, in particular, management of centres, branch committees, tutors, volunteers, students and the parents/guardians of students. Comhaltas units should ensure that a copy of this document is available in digital or hard copy form to Comhaltas members and anyone attending a Comhaltas facility or a Comhaltas activity.

2 COVID-19 GUIDANCE SPECIFIC TO PARTICIPANTS IN COMHALTAS ACTIVITIES

(Members, Tutors, Volunteers, Students, Parents/Guardians of Students, Guests)

Step 1: Education and Awareness

- a) Ensure you (or your child) are/is familiar with and follow these guidelines and any amendments to them.
- b) Ensure continued awareness of safety protocols.
- c) Follow advice given in health awareness materials such as posters displayed at Comhaltas activities.

Step 2: Pre-attendance Screening

- a) Identify the Covid Supervisors appointed by your branch. If at any time you have concerns about the implementation or compliance with these guidelines, please discuss these with a Covid Supervisor.
- b) Complete the Covid-19 Declaration (one for each person intending to attend Comhaltas activities) and submit it/them to a Covid Supervisor of your branch before your initial return to Comhaltas activities. This document will be retained by the branch and be fully compliant with all GDPR guidelines.
- c) Ensure that a Covid Supervisor of your branch has up-to-date contact details for you (or your child).
- d) You (or your child) must not attend Comhaltas facilities/activities if you (or your child) have:
 - had any of the Covid-19 symptoms (i.e. cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness or flu like symptoms) in the past 14 days;
 - been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days;
 - been a close contact of a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days (i.e. less than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes altogether in 1 day); or
 - been advised by a doctor or required by Government regulation to self-isolate or cocoon at this time.

Step 3: Hygiene

- a) Wash/sanitise your hands frequently, but especially on entering a venue and after using the toilets.
- b) Practice good cough/sneeze etiquette and dispose of any used tissue in a responsible manner.
- c) Avoid touching your face.
- d) Bring your own equipment (instrument and associated equipment, pens, paper, music file/folder, water bottles, etc.) and do not share these with anyone else.
- e) Avoid touching high contact surfaces, e.g. door handles, light switches.
- f) Use a face mask/shield in compliance with current Government guidelines.

Step 4: Social Distancing Guidelines

- a) Observe physical distancing guidelines; this is 2 metres until further notice.

Step 5: Physical Contact

- a) Avoid or reduce physical contact to a minimum. Do not shake hands.

Step 6: Use of Toilets

- a) Where possible use the toilet at home before you arrive to a Comhaltas activity to avoid touching high contact surfaces.
- b) Use toilets at an activity venue as directed by the organisers. On exiting the toilet, wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap, dry them with paper towels and deposit used paper towels in the bin/bag provided.
- c) Only one person should use toilet facilities at any one time.

Step 7: Travel to and from Comhaltas Activities

- a) Follow Government social distancing advice in relation to all forms of transport to Comhaltas activities
- b) If possible, walk or cycle to the venue.
- c) If travelling by private vehicle, such as a car, only travel with members of the same household.
- d) Avoid the use of public transport where possible; if it is the only option, follow Government guidelines.
- e) Arrive no more than 5 minutes prior to an activity and leave immediately after the activity.
- f) Abide by established drop off/collection points to avoid traffic jams.
- g) Parent/Guardians must return at the appointed collection time.
- h) Parents or guardians not directly involved are not permitted to attend or observe the activity.
- i) Parents/guardians of students with specific medical conditions can remain in car park in case of emergency, providing they adhere to all guidelines in place.