

Dear Students,

As expected, the government has announced the closure of all Schools and Colleges with effect from 6pm this evening through to **March 29th**. We recognise that this will have an immediate impact on you at a critical stage of your studies.

We are implementing a programme of supports for all students to mitigate against any academic impact this may have. Your Student's Union and Lecturer's will be in regular communication with you over the coming weeks. Given the closure there will inevitably be changes to your assignments, CAs and submission dates, therefore it is important to check your email regularly and the homepage of our website.

Please be assured that our Academic community are committed to ensuring our students will not be disadvantaged academically and that your progression will be supported and managed if the closure and/or other factors impacts your studies in the short-term.

As always safety and wellbeing of our staff, students and our wider community is of paramount importance to us all. Throughout the closure IADT will monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation and as the national events unfold we will provide regular updates on IADT homepage www.iadt.ie

Our overarching advice to our community is to follow the advice of the HSE who is monitoring the situation and updating the [HSE website](#) regularly.

- Personal hygiene, especially **good hand washing practice and good respiratory hygiene** is vitally important for everyone in the prevention of spreading infection. Where possible and practical you should maintain a social distance from any individuals you encounter and avoid close contact with those who you know has cold or flu symptoms.
- As a precautionary measure to protect you and all the College community the HSE is requesting that **if you have travelled to any of the high risk countries listed on the HSE website or have been in contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 or have attended a healthcare facility where patients with COVID-19 are being treated you should call the HSE helpline 1850 24 1850 or visit www.hse.ie/eng/ for advice. You will then be told what to do next. If you have any of the symptoms you should also self-isolate. It is a requirement to inform the College should you fall into the above category. The contact details for the Health Centre are 01-2394760 or email joan.broderick@iadt.ie / tracey.morgan@iadt.ie**
- **Where the College has specific information on an individual's travel plans and circumstances additional requirements if needed will be advised.**
- We are asking all our staff and learners to be alert to their personal health position and the warning symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties and fever (high temperature) which may lead to a serious health condition that must be referred for medical advice without delay.

It is recommended that as the spread of COVID-19 continues throughout Ireland and abroad that only essential internal and overseas travel is undertaken at this time. In addition to potentially exposing yourself to infection, if abroad your return journey to Ireland maybe impacted by the escalation of the spread of COVID-19.

Any learners who are on placement should follow the advice issued by our College and also be alert to the advice and guidelines of their host organisation. **Protect yourself and others.**

To protect yourself and others from coronavirus (COVID-19) it's important to think about how the virus is spread.

Coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets. To infect someone, the virus has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into another person's eyes, nose or mouth. This can be direct or indirect (on hands, objects, surfaces). Keeping this in mind will help you to remember all the things you need to do to protect yourself and others from the virus. The **most important action** we can take to protect ourselves and others from Covid-19 **is regular hand washing and good respiratory hygiene.**

Follow this advice as strictly as possible and encourage others to follow this advice too:

1. Wash hands often with soap and water. Or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
2. If you are coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. Throw the used tissue away into a closed bin, and wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your flexed (bent) elbow. Have tissues available.
3. Avoid close contact with anyone who you know has cold or flu symptoms.

Concerned you have the Coronavirus COVID-19?

If you have symptoms **a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties and fever** AND have been in an area affected by COVID-19 OR have been in contact with someone confirmed as having coronavirus OR to a healthcare facility where coronavirus patients are being treated, we strongly advise you to follow HSE advice as follows:

- **Do not go to the college Nurse or GP. Phone them first and they will give you further advice. If you do not have a GP, phone 1850 241850, 112 or 999.**
- **Self-isolate (at home or in your college accommodation) while awaiting further advice from your GP or the HSE.**

Financial Difficulties

Should any of our students have exceptional financial difficulties you can contact the IADT Student's Union who may be able to provide some funding to help in the short term. Tel: IADT Student's Union President 0834677916 or email; presidentiadt@gmail.com

Contact numbers

HSE Live 1850 24 1850

At a time of significant concern for all of us, we would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of the IADT community who have shown great commitment in their efforts to address this evolving situation.

Stay safe and well.

Warmest regards,

Dr Andrew Power

Registrar IADT

Denise McMorrow

Student Experience Manager