

5 March 2020

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Dear Executive Director

As you can imagine, we have begun to receive enquiries as to the Union's advice about industrial rights arising from possible effects of the Covid-19 virus. It is now apparent that the virus is likely to remain a threat for some time to come, and we want to provide appropriate advice to members in Catholic schools and the Catholic Education Office. Accordingly, we seek your views on the following questions:

1. Have risk assessments being done at each workplace where there might be a heightened risk of direct or indirect contact with persons who have been exposed to the Covid-19 virus?
2. What steps are being taken to ensure compliance with the DoH advices, and otherwise minimise and control risk at each workplace?
3. What advice has been given to the school communities to minimise contact and risk?
4. What steps are schools taking in relation to minimising potential exposure on overseas exchanges, trips and excursions?
5. What will happen in the event that there is a requirement for any staff member to undergo a period of quarantine? Will staff be provided with paid leave?
6. What will happen in the event that there is a requirement for a school to close or in the event of other interruptions? Will staff be provided with alternative duties and work arrangements or paid leave?
7. What will happen in the event that a staff member becomes infected? Will they be entitled to paid leave? Will this be special leave, personal (sick) leave or infectious diseases leave?

Yours sincerely


Debra James
General Secretary