



PATRICIAN Youth CENTRE

John Street, Downpatrick, Co. Down. BT30 6HS Tel/Fax: 028 44 615488

5 October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you aware the Centre has been closed for Youth Service activities since lockdown and that programmes where possible have been delivered remotely to membership during the period.

We have made preparations to return to programme delivery on site. This will be a phased return, hence will take some time as the safety and wellbeing of all our young people is our greatest concern.

The Centre is reopening on Tuesday 6th October for programmes. This is being done gradually and in line with government and PHA guidance hence we will need your help and support with this.

We have developed and enclose an outline of guidance which provides details of how we will support the return of young people to our Centre and which we need you to do to make sure your child/children are safe and able to do so. Can I ask you to read through and please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

I have also enclosed a link to **a new registration/emergency contact form and would ask you to complete and return to me prior to your child attending any session in the Youth Centre**. This is to update our records and allow us to follow the Test, Trace and Protect system and will enable us to contact you if we have a case, or suspected case of COVID –19 in our centre.

Covid-19 Registration Form can found at this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=g2A_psDZ70mRjNpfhhPoTXyDiGZVyBNJpmzC58XqRI1URVdaTlo5Mzi0RDVCWEI0WURRTDgxWTdUVy4u)

We have also developed a safety agreement for our young people which outlines how young people will be expected to take responsibility for their actions, in order to stay safe in our centre. We will ask them to agree to this when they are taking part in programmes. We have attached a copy for your information and ask you to sign and return as your commitment to keep your child and all young people who attend the centre safe.

In the eventuality of the centre having to close again we will endeavour to continue programmes remotely with young people.

Thank you for your patience and support during this challenging time, we look forward to welcoming your child/young person into the Centre again.

Yours faithfully

Yvonne Maguire

Senior Youth Worker

Patrician Youth Centre

Parent/Guardian Youth Centre Restart Guidance

- Do not send your child/young person to the youth centre or youth programme if they are unwell or displaying COVID-19 related symptoms (high temperature, new or persistent cough and/or loss of taste or smell).
- Provide us with up to date emergency contact numbers, to enable us to deliver on the Test, Trace and Protect system.
- Contact the Senior Youth Worker immediately, if you are aware that your child has come into contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- Only send your child/young person to their allocated session. Each young person will be allocated a session time; their youth worker will confirm the day and time of this. They must not attend the centre outside of this time and will not be given access. Make sure your child/young person does not bring any items with them to the Centre i.e. bags, books, coats (only if necessary) etc.
- Ask your child/young person not to gather in groups at the provision; either outside, at the gates or at the entrance to the Centre.
- If you are returning to collect your child, please do this at the allocated time given to you by the youth worker. This will be specific to ensure that there are not groups of parents gathering outside to collect their children.
- Make sure your child/young person knows they must leave the centre and grounds when their session is over, so crowds are not able to gather, and social distancing measures are followed.
- Ensure your child washes their hands before they attend the session and when they return home.
- **Face coverings are mandatory in the youth centre communal areas for seniors (i.e. those at secondary school) however are not during youth programmes, but acceptable if you wish your child or young person to wear one.**
- Where the use of public transport may be used as part of the youth work programme it is mandatory for young people age 13 years or older to wear a face covering unless exempt for medical reasons.

What we will do:

- Take temperature of young person on entering building and request that they sanitise hands.
- Ensure that all children/young people and staff practice social distancing measures of one metre and two metres respectively.
- They will be allocated a specific room and equipment that will be cleaned before and after each session.
- Show your child/young person how to wash their hands as directed by the PHA. We will expect your child/young person to follow PHA guidance of regular handwashing and will reinforce the message of **Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.**
- Have soap and handtowels available throughout sessions, but we will not provide children/ young people with individual hand sanitiser.
- **No food or drinks prepared in the Centre will be served to children/young people during this period of COVID-19 and we ask you not to send food or drinks to the Youth Centre or programme, in order to reduce the risk of young people sharing and having contact with each other. The Centre will provide a supervised tuck shop where items will be priced at 50p or £1 and young people will be required to have the correct money as no change will be given. The Centre may provide a supper snack at the end of some sessions which will be prepacked and taken out of the Centre.**
- Any sports played will conform to social distancing guidelines. Football will be played outdoors only, weather permitting.
- Equipment will be kept to a minimum and not shared.
- **Admission to the Youth Centre is £1. Please ensure that your child has the correct money as no change will be given.**
- There is a one-way system in operation in the centre. Young people will enter the building via the main entrance and exit using the media centre fire exit.