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COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT - SUMMER/AUTUMN PROGRAMMING

The Covid-19 safety precautions and procedures outlined in this document have been carefully thought through by Irish Gap Year to ensure the health and well-being of our students, staff and local community.

Our risk management plans must adhere to the current guidelines set out by the Irish Health Service Executive (HSE), Ireland's governing body on public health.

We ask that our students carefully review this document with their families prior to their time with Irish Gap Year. Students must commit to engage in the safety protocols outlined in this document and do their very best while with Irish Gap Year to act in a responsible, safe and respectful manner in order to maintain their safety, the safety of the group and respect the progress that Ireland has made in fighting back against Covid-19.

CONFIRMED SUMMER 21' IMMERSION PROGRAM DATES

- **ADVENTURE & LEADERSHIP / IRISH ARTS & CULTURE IMMERSION PROGRAM:** ARRIVE TO DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON SUNDAY, JULY 11TH, 2021. DEPART FROM DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2021.

CONFIRMED AUTUMN 21' PROGRAM DATES

- **Adventure and Leadership Program Cohort:** Arrive to Dublin International Airport on Sunday, September 5th, 2021. Depart from Dublin International Airport on Saturday, November 27th, 2021.
- **Irish Arts and Culture Program:** Arrive to Dublin International Airport on Sunday, September 12th, 2021. Depart from Dublin International Airport on Sunday November 28th, 2021.

COVID-19 TESTING - PRE-DEPARTURE AND IN IRELAND

A. Pre-departure Testing

We require that **all students undergo a Covid-19 PCR Test no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival to Ireland**. Students who do not have a PCR test time stamped within 72 hours of arrival to Ireland will not be permitted to enter the country.

We urge families to speak with their physicians as soon as possible to arrange their own private test in the weeks prior to departure. Due to travel time to Ireland from abroad we strongly suggest that you confirm that your PCR test results will be available within 48 hours of testing.



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Students must produce a copy of their PCR test results for Irish Gap Year prior to travel to Ireland. A copy must also be available for both your airline carrier and immigration officers upon arrival to Ireland.

B. Proof of Vaccination

Students who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 are exempt from the mandatory hotel quarantine upon their arrival to Ireland. The following are considered 'fully vaccinated':

Pfizer-BioNtech	7 days after 2nd dose
Moderna	14 days after 2nd dose
Oxford-AstraZeneca	15 days after 2nd dose
Johnson & Johnson/Janssen	14 days after single dose

You will need to provide proof of your vaccination to Irish Gap Year ahead of your travels and proof to Irish immigration officers upon your arrival to Ireland.

C. If a student tests positive prior to departure

Any student who tests positive on the Covid-19 PCR test will not be permitted to join the program until such time as they test negative for the Covid-19 PCR test. That student may avail of a refund should the student not be able to join the program.

D. If a student tests positive while in Ireland

Should any student test positive for Covid-19 while in Ireland, Irish Gap Year will look after the health and well-being of that student and isolate that student in their own housing separate from the cohort. Food, support and daily check-ins will be provided by Irish Gap Year. When the student has made a full recovery and tests negative for Covid-19 they will be permitted to re-join the program. Asymptomatic and otherwise healthy students must complete a mandatory 10-day isolation in Irish Gap Year's isolation accommodation and undergo additional medical evaluation (determined by doctors). In a scenario where these 10 days go past the end of the program IGY will maintain the same level of support as if it is still program time.

E. PCR Testing at the end of your program prior to return travel to home country

Irish Gap Year will arrange Covid-19 PCR testing for all students on our Autumn 21'



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programs 72 hours prior to their arrival back to their home country. The cost of the testing is covered in your program fees. This will mean that 48 hours prior to your departure day you will have your PCR test, with results typically available within 24 hours.

TRAVELING TO IRELAND

'RED-LIST' VS 'GREEN-LIST' COUNTRIES AND QUARANTINING ON ARRIVAL

The Irish Government reviews and publishes the list of high-risk countries every two weeks. We will keep you informed prior to the start of your program regarding your countries status and the necessary steps required to enter Ireland for your program.

ARRIVING TO IRELAND FROM A 'GREEN-LIST' COUNTRY OR A FULLY VACCINATED PERSON ARRIVING TO IRELAND FROM A GREEN OR RED LIST COUNTRY

RESTRICTED MOVEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN IRELAND

A 5-day 'restricted movement' period is currently required for travelers entering Ireland from any other country.

A. What is restricted movement?

For the first 5 days of programming each group will be required to restrict their movement with their peers on their respective programs.

The 5-day restricted movement period will allow for the full incubation period of Covid-19 to occur, ensuring that on the 6th day (IGY testing day in Ireland) that no student has become infected during the period since their pre-departure Covid-19 test in the USA.

B. Defining restricted movement

Restricted movement means that persons arriving to Ireland can take part in outdoor activities and local adventures but must do so while socially distancing and must not interact directly with the community outside of the Irish Gap Year team.

Each cohort will be taken outside for exercise and activity within walking distance of their home under the supervision of Irish Gap Year program leaders.

Each household is viewed as the equivalent of a 'family-unit', meaning that the group lives together and may exercise together outdoors while social distancing. Social distancing protocols will apply within the household and students are expected to wear a mask indoors while in the presence of their housemates. Sanitization practices do apply and will be covered during orientation.



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Each cohort will have two full-time program leaders with them daily. The program leaders will ensure that students are adhering to the restricted movement protocols as well as delivering food to the houses and accompanying students on their daily outings for exercise.

The following rules apply to restricted movement:

- Students must not interact with any members of the community outside of the Irish Gap Year team.
- Irish Gap Year will check students for symptoms daily, including a daily temperature check for the first 5 days. If a student is displaying symptoms, they will need to let Irish Gap Year know, and we will arrange a doctor's visit and Covid-19 test if necessary.
- Students must not interact with other groups (meaning no visits between programs during the first week).
- Nobody may enter student housing other than the students living in that house.
- Students should wash their hands properly and often.
- Do not enter another household, shop or any public place.
- Students may partake in outdoor activities such as surfing, walking, kayaking under the supervision of their program leaders. Social distancing will apply.
- Students may partake in the Castle Park Project (large, restricted movement project).
- Student should socially distance and wear masks while in the company of their housemates.
- Additional housing will be provided by Irish Gap Year to ensure that each student has their own bedroom throughout the restricted movement period.
- Each household's 'close-contacts' will be limited to their housemates only.

C. Food During Restricted Movement

Student housing will be kept stocked with food throughout the isolation period and there will be a daily shopping list to ensure that everyone has what they like. Students will make their own breakfasts and lunches from these grocery supplies.

Students must observe social distancing while eating their meals and practice hand hygiene. This will be reviewed during orientation and there will be 'reminder' signage in student housing.

Dinner will be catered and delivered to each household.



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D. Activities During Restricted Movement

The Castle Park project - Both the Adventure & Leadership group and the Irish Arts & Culture Group will be working on our 'Castle Park Community Space' project throughout the restricted movement period and onwards during the remainder of the programs.

The Castle Park Community Space will be a multi-year project transforming a scenic coastal field into a community space that emphasizes ecology, art, community and bringing people together in the outdoors.

The project will entail brainstorming, planning, mapping and the building of the community space. Students will draw on their creativity and collaboration skills to come up with a long-term design for the space that satisfies the project's goals.

The two groups will not mix during this project. Each program will have its own tasks within the project, and they will continue to work on the project together once the restricted movement period ends.

Outdoor Adventure – There is an abundance of local hikes, walks and beaches all within walking distance from Irish Gap Year's student housing. We will make the most of the local environment each day, getting the students out into fresh air under the supervision of their program leaders.

ENFORCING RESTRICTED MOVEMENT

Any students violating isolation and venturing into shops or any other public spaces during the restricted movement period will be immediately dismissed from the program.

ARRIVAL TO IRELAND FROM A 'RED-LIST' COUNTRY

If your home country is a 'red-list' country **and you are not fully vaccinated for Covid-19** you are still able to travel to Ireland, albeit with the following restrictions:

A. Mandatory Hotel Quarantine

Students arriving from 'Red-List' countries will be required to complete a twelve-day period of mandatory hotel quarantine (MQH) at a designated hotel in Dublin. This may be reduced if



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a student receives a 'negative' test result following a COVID-19 PCR test that is taken on the tenth day in quarantine. It may also be extended if a student tests positive during their stay.

Irish Gap Year does not facilitate the 'MHQ' as the process is regulated and facilitated by the Irish Government. However, we are happy to assist and support families in booking a mandatory hotel stay in Ireland.

B. What happens when I arrive to Ireland and I have to hotel quarantine?

Upon arrival into Ireland, after immigration and customs processing you will be met by members of the Defence Forces who will ensure you are safely and securely transported from the airport to your hotel.

Hotel staff will greet you and take you through the check in process. They will also provide you with information relating to your stay including food choices, exercise and wellbeing.

The Irish Defence Forces are available to support you from the moment you arrive in Ireland until you complete your MHQ and exit the facility. They will be onsite 24/7 at your facility throughout your stay to liaise with the hotel service provider to ensure it is a safe, secure and comfortable experience.

C. How Does Quarantining Effect my Arrival Dates?

If you are required to quarantine at a hotel upon entry to Ireland you will need to arrive 10 days early for your program, to allow for your quarantine time.

D. Food During Mandatory Hotel Quarantine

All meals will be delivered to your hotel room and are covered in the costs of your MHQ fees.

E. What are the costs of the MHQ in Ireland?

A twelve day stay at a government approved hotel will cost €1,875.00 or roughly \$2,200.00. The fees include all food, accommodation and Covid-19 testing in Ireland.

F. What if I book my hotel for MHQ and my program is cancelled, I can't come, or my country is removed for the MHQ list?

Cancellations made within 48 hours prior to your date of arrival will incur a charge of €200, the remaining balance will be refunded to the original card used to complete the booking transaction.

Please note that the processing time for refunds can vary depending on your bank and country of origin.

AFTER RESTRICTED MOVEMENT or MHQ IS COMPLETE

After the restricted movement period or Mandatory Hotel Quarantine is complete

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Covid-19 Risk Management and Irish Gap Year Programming



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programming will return to normal. Students will move into their permanent student housing and be assigned their roommates. The additional elements that will start are subject to whatever national restrictions are in place at that time, as outlined in the National Framework for Living with Covid-19 and may include travel throughout Ireland, workshops with third parties and engagement with volunteer organizations and the local community.



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WHAT IF A STUDENT SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

Students displaying symptoms of Covid-19 will be tested at the earliest available time. In Ireland, Covid-19 tests are typically available within 24 hours of contacting the doctor's office. Test results are typically available within 3-days.

Any student running a fever will be automatically isolated in our isolation accommodation until such time as the student is tested and results are made available.

Breakdown of symptoms and resulting actions taken by Irish Gap Year:

- **Fever** - automatic isolation, doctor's appointment and Covid-19 test.
- **Difficulty breathing and/or shortness of breath while at rest** - automatic isolation, doctor's appointment and Covid-19 test.
- **Persistent dry cough** - automatic isolation, doctor's appointment and Covid-19 test.
- **Tiredness** – doctor's appointment only if other symptoms are present, Covid-19 test at the doctor's discretion.
- **Loss of taste or smell** – doctor's appointment, Covid-19 test at doctor's discretion.
- Any student wishing to visit a doctor during the program may do so, regardless of the guidelines above. Irish Gap Year will facilitate appointments with the doctor on their behalf.

WHAT IF A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 DURING THE PROGRAM?

A. Testing Positive During the Program

If a student tests positive for Covid-19 during the program that student will go into full-isolation in our emergency isolation accommodation until such time as they have recovered from the virus and are cleared by the doctor. This will be a 10 day stay on the basis the students show no symptoms during the last 5 days.

It should be noted that any students testing positive may not travel home while actively infected with Covid-19.

Irish Gap Year will provide the student with an isolated area, food and care during this time. In the event of the student developing serious symptoms, he/she will be transferred to Sligo General Hospital, 22 miles away. All additional costs incurred during hospitalization will be covered by that student's family or medical insurance.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) requires that we provide the contact details for all those who have been in contact with the student and that those people must isolate for 14 days.



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B. Return to Restricted Movement

If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19 during the program the 'close contacts' of that person will return to 'restricted-movement' for the mandatory period of 14-days during which time they will be able to participate in projects and activities as described in the section titled 'Defining Restricted-Movement'.

ISOLATION ACCOMMODATION

Irish Gap Year has secured a spacious house to use in the event of a student or multiple students requiring isolation after testing positive for Covid-19 at any stage during the program.

HOUSING, FOOD AND PERSONAL HYGIENE ON PROGRAM

A. Student housing

Student housing will be deep-cleaned and disinfected prior to the arrival of our Fall group. Strict hygiene regulations for accommodation have been outlined by the Irish Health Service Executive. All accommodation that our students will be staying at throughout their travels in Ireland must adhere to these regulations. Each cohort will be acting as its own 'unit' meaning that social distancing guidelines do not pertain within student housing.

B. Food

Students will share meals with their group. The majority of dinners will be home cooked at the student housing and prepared by students under the supervision of Irish Gap Year leaders. Some meals will be catered, particularly during the isolation period at the start of the program.

C. Personal Hygiene

Hand sanitation stations will be provided in our student housing and students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently. During orientation we will brief our students on proper sneeze and cough etiquette and proper hand-washing techniques. Currently it is mandatory to wear a face mask while in a shop or on public transportation.

Some public places that we visit on the program may require the use of facemasks, therefore we suggest that each student bring their own re-usable facemasks with them on the program. Face masks will also be provided by Irish Gap Year at the student house.

It should be noted that for the remainder of the program the Irish Health Service Executive rules around coughing etiquette, hygiene and social distancing will remain in force while in public areas. The program leaders will ensure that all students understand the rules and make allowances for this in day-to-day programming.



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D. Wearing Face Coverings

It is now mandatory that face coverings (face masks) are worn in all retail premises in Ireland. A €2,500 fine and up to 6 months imprisonment is applicable for non-compliance.

We recommend that all students bring a set of re-useable facemasks with them to Ireland.

PARENT VISITS

Irish Gap Year typically encourages parent visits during program time. Currently due to restrictions in Ireland we do not advise parents visiting during programming.

Parents who wish to travel to Ireland after their son or daughter's program with Irish Gap Year may do so but will be required to follow the Irish government travel guidelines for international visitors entering Ireland.

TRAVEL TO IRELAND

There are currently no restrictions on flights from the United States or Canada to Ireland although the number of available flights is significantly diminished. Your airline will most likely require that you provide evidence of a negative PCR test result prior to your flight.

Students traveling to Ireland must use personal protective equipment (gloves, mask and hand sanitizer) on their flight and in Dublin Airport.



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ADDITIONAL COSTS TO FAMILIES

- A. Total Additional Costs to Families - USD \$400.00
- B. Covid-19 Testing in Ireland - Laboratory testing on day 6 of each program is compulsory. The cost of the testing is USD \$160 per person. Please note: Students unable to secure Covid-19 viral testing in their home state will be required to test in Ireland on their arrival day at an additional expense of \$240.
- C. Isolation Accommodation - The cost to retain the isolation accommodation for the duration of both programs has been calculated at USD \$240.00 per student. The accommodation will be ready should any student test positive for Covid-19 at any stage throughout the program and two weeks after the program.
- D. The isolation accommodation fee also covers all food, support and supervision for up to 2 weeks after the program ends.
- E. Any doctor's visits during program time and additional Covid-19 testing must be covered by your family or medical insurance.
- F. Any hospital visits and hospital fees accrued will be an additional cost to your family.
- G. The total additional costs will be itemized and added to each family's program balance.
- H. Students who are required to 'Mandatory Hotel Quarantine' will not be charged the additional \$400.00.

X

Student Signature

X

Parent Signature

Irish Gap Year Framework for Gap Year Programs during COVID-19



	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
	Very low rate of COVID-19 infections Low R-Number		Very high rate of COVID-19 infections High R-Number		
Outdoor Activities	Yes, Anywhere in Ireland	Yes, Anywhere in Ireland	Yes, Anywhere in Ireland	Yes, Anywhere in Ireland	Yes, within local area only (5km)
	✓	✓	✓	✓	•••
Workshops	Yes, Leadership Workshops and Art Workshops both indoors and outdoors	Yes, Leadership Workshops and Art Workshops both indoors and outdoors	Yes, Leadership Workshops and Art Workshops both indoors and outdoors	Yes, Leadership Workshops and Art Workshops both indoors and outdoors	Yes, Leadership Workshops and Art Workshops both indoors and outdoors
	✓	✓	✓	✓	•••
Local Trips	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, within local area only (5km)
	✓	✓	✓	✓	•••
Overnight Trips around Ireland	Yes, anywhere in Ireland	Yes, anywhere in Ireland	Yes, but with daily risk assessment to avoid Covid-19 hotspots. No more than four in a shop at any time, planned stops on travels, safe destinations only (likely no cities).	Yes, but with daily risk assessment to avoid Covid-19 hotspots. No more than four in a shop at any time, planned stops on travels, safe destinations only (likely no cities).	No
	✓	✓	•••	•••	✗
Volunteering	All volunteering partnership are open, travel throughout Ireland for volunteering purposes is possible	All volunteering partnership are open, travel throughout Ireland for volunteering purposes is possible	Limited volunteering possible	Limited volunteering possible	Limited volunteering possible
	✓	✓	•••	•••	•••
Socializing	Pubs, restaurants, café's, retail, museums, galleries, sporting events all open with social distancing and Covid-19 guidelines in place	Pubs, restaurants, café's, retail, museums, galleries, sporting events all open with social distancing and Covid-19 guidelines in place	Pubs, restaurants and café's open with additional measures in place. Museums, some national monuments and galleries closed. Retail open	Pubs, restaurants and café's open for outdoor dining and take-away only. Museums and galleries closed. Some retail open. No visitors from other households for social purposes (exemption for IGY staff)	Pubs, restaurants and café's open for take-away only. Museums and galleries closed. Essential retail only
	✓	✓	•••	•••	•••

Legend

- ✓ The module can be undertaken fully
- Some restrictions may apply to the module
- ✗ Module cannot be undertaken



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