



Cork During Covid 19

Family, community support, intergenerational learning
and the parental role

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Cork City Introduction

Second largest city in Republic of Ireland

Population - Approx. 289,000

Student City

Strong vibrant 'ecosystem' of education and learning

Cork Education and Training Board – responsibility for training and education across a range of services

Cork Institute of Technology – 12,000 students

University College Cork – 21,000 students



Cork, Ireland



2015



City population:
289,739



City/Urban area:
833



Population
Density:
Between 300 and
500 inhabitants per
km²



GDP – city:
More than USD
25,000



GDP - country:
USD 39,290



Average number
of years of
schooling:
13.7

Cork Learning City

- 1** Cork city aims to effectively mobilise its resources across all sectors to maximise the opportunities for lifelong learning for all its citizens. Memorandum of Understanding on Learning, signed in 2015 by four lead partners: Cork City Council, Cork Institute of Technology, University College Cork, Cork Education and Training Board
- 2** Joined by two executive partners in 2017: Health Service Executive and the National Association for Principals and Deputies (NAPD)
- 3** Growing Lifelong Learning in Cork (GLLiC), the Learning City Working Group coordinates all activities towards the implementation of the UNESCO Beijing Declaration on Learning Cities and policies emerging from Mexico, Cork and Medellin International Conferences
- 4** Learning City Coordinator appointed and UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities was held in Cork in 2017
- 5** Cork call to action - Green and Healthy, Equitable and Inclusion, Work and Entrepreneurship – ‘Leave No One Behind’ – SDG’s



Covid 19 in Ireland

Total Confirmed Cases

5,364

06/04/2020

Confirmed Cases

Total Deaths

174

06/04/2020

Deaths



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



GeoHive

Government Response - Timeline

- 1 13th March – The Government announced the closure of schools, pre-schools and further and higher education settings, for a period until 29 March 2020, to support efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19. This was in line with the advice of the National Public Health Emergency Team.
- 2 19th March 2020 - Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD announced the cancellation of oral and practical performance tests of the state examinations which were originally scheduled to take place from Monday 23 March to Friday 3 April 2020. All students who were due to take these tests will be awarded full marks for this portion of the exam.
- 3 26th March 2020 – Government provided schools with help to allow them operate the School Meals Programme amid the extended Covid-19 restrictions. This will ensure that nutritious food gets to many thousands of young people who need it the most.
- 4 All schools are closed until 19th April at the earliest as part of further restrictions to limit the spread of infection.

Government Response

● 'Stay at home' Guidelines to try to 'flatten the curve'

2 metre social distancing, washing hands, cough etiquette

Only travel allowed

- to travel to and from work where the work is considered an essential service
- Medical appointments and to collect medicines
- for vital family reasons including caring for children, elderly or vulnerable people but excluding social family visits
- to exercise within 2 kilometres of your house. You cannot exercise with people from outside your household

Cocooning – a measure to protect over 70 year olds

Existing initiatives that support a Community Response

- **Learning Festivals**

Cork has organized a Learning Festival each year since 2004. The Festival promotes and celebrates learning of all kinds across all age groups, abilities and interests, from pre-school to retirement. 600+ free events across the city.
- **Learning Neighbourhoods**

The Learning Neighbourhoods initiative aims to benefit communities by taking the learning city concept to the neighbourhood level. It aims to assist local education organisations to collaborate and develop lifelong learning opportunities. The neighbourhoods aim to celebrate learning at all levels, develop opportunities for learning, develop a ground-up approach and promote equality of opportunity. There are currently six Learning Neighbourhoods in Cork.
- **EcCo Well Approach**

EcCoWell is about integrating strategies across ecology & economy (Ec), community & culture (Co) health, well-being & lifelong learning (Well). The concept has been developed following work done by the OECD & PASCAL International Exchanges (PIE) on lifelong learning. Our approach in Cork has provided a platform for integrating strategies such as Healthy City, Green City, Learning City and Sustainable Economic Development to create a blueprint that fosters quality of life and wellbeing for people in the Cork region.

Community Response and learning opportunities

Structures in place through Learning Neighbourhoods – Learning Networks are established

2km restrictions mean that communities have to work together and find solutions within the community

Increased focus on technology

- Home schooling –unfamiliar with the process. Teachers, students and parents are learning with new technologies, new methods of teaching and assessment.
- Schools are taking to Social Media – cooking demos online, art competitions, etc. eg. Cork College of Commerce who launched an online Photography Competition when the Learning Festival was cancelled.
- Music Generation (Community based musicians and music organisations) – What sounds in your house can be made into music

Health and wellbeing resources – eg. Cork Healthy Cities, www.creativitytonic.ie

Sporting organisations are now involved, with young volunteers delivering food supplies to the elderly.

Prison Education Units

Community Response and learning opportunities

Community Response Forum – There is now a Local Authority Community Response Forum in every local authority area to help all vulnerable members of our communities affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

In Cork City there are 30 different partner organisations working together to support local communities and help those most in need. Each forum consists of the HSE, the council, county champions, the postal service, Community Welfare Service, community policing, State organisations, charities and other stakeholders.

Each forum will provide the following services:

- Collection and delivery of food, essential household items, fuel, medication in line with guidance
- Transport to community testing centres, clinical Assessment Hubs, GP and hospital appointments
- Social isolation, supports, engagement
- Meals and their delivery
- Other medical/health needs



www.corklearningcity.ie



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