

Dear Colleagues

A number of you have reached out for clarification following the government's announcement of a second 'lockdown' to start this Thursday 5th November (subject to Parliament approval on 4th, which is assumed).

Having carefully read the guidance published by government this morning, I can see no reason to change our stance on safety training in schools. The government guidance states that everyone should stay at home except for those that need to travel for work purposes, or for the purpose of delivering or receiving education. While we recognise that these are challenging times for everyone, there is no doubt that the work that you are doing in schools is enabling senior staff and teachers to deliver a broad and rich curriculum and is enabling schools to stay open safely for their students; as such it should continue.

I should remind you that any training arranged should leave both the trainer and the school staff feeling safe and comfortable with the arrangements made. RDTHSCs need to be aware of, and compliant with, each school's COVID-19 policy before the visit, and a risk assessment for the training session should be drawn up with the Head of Department. I should remind you that due to the need for extended close supervision, welding training is still prohibited within schools until further notice.

Thank you for all the sterling work that you are carrying out nationally, it is very much appreciated. I look forward to seeing many of you online soon. In the meantime, should any queries arise please feel free to raise them with us,

Kindest regards

Tony Ryan

**Tony Ryan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

