

UCD STUDENT CENTRE IONAD MAC LÉINN

Covid-19 Catering and food provision at events

Policy updated on September 3rd 2020

Context

Covid-19 is a highly infectious disease which has affected the way all organisations go about their activities. More information on the national context is available at www.gov.ie and www.hse.ie

UCD Student Centre aims to support the national effort to suppress Covid-19 and support the public guidelines in place. This document attempts to apply public health guidelines related to catering and food provision to the specific contextual situations which occur in the UCD Student Centre.

Risks

The main risks associated with food and catering provision are:

- Creation of touchpoints (an area of piece of equipment which multiple people may touch or interact with)
- Creation of situations where social (physical) distancing may be compromised.

Industry guidance

Faite Ireland have created a significant bank of guidance in the area of catering and food provision which can be access here: <https://covid19.failteireland.ie/business-supports/business-reopening/>

The guidelines below are generally based on the Faite Ireland guidance documents.

The Guidelines are also reflective of general public health guidance at the time of writing. Where an update occurs in public health guidelines, the public health guidance will have precedence over these guidelines.

Guidelines

The following guidelines will apply to all events taking place in the UCD Student Centre and all associated facilities (operated by UCD Campus Sport and Leisure Ltd.) until further notice.

1. Catering should normally be provided by a recognised provider on campus
2. Where catering/food is being provided it should be provided by one of the methods below only (In order of preference)
 - a. In a designated space for catering/food which has been set out in accordance with social distance Guidelines.

- b. Where table service can be employed.
 - c. Where table service cannot be employed then distribution must take place in an area where safe (Distanced) queue management can be employed.
- 3. Staff
 - a. Staff distributing food as part of table service should wear a face covering
 - b. Staff/volunteers operating a food distribution point may require a face covering where an appropriate barrier is not provided.
- 4. Attendees
 - a. Attendees are required under government regulations (Reference below) to wear face coverings at all events in the UCD Student Centre save for when they are seated in an appropriate location.
 - b. Attendees should be advised of the Covid-19 restrictions and instructed how they can access catering services in advance so they understand the system.
 - c. Attendees should be instructed not to congregate before, after or during the event and should move directly to their designated seats on arrival and directly to the catering area during breaks. At the catering area they should move directly to their seats (after collecting food where relevant)

Student Organisation Food

Student Organisations regularly provide “free” food and drink as part of their events to their attendees. This is considered to be a high risk activity and must be operated in a similar manner to the catering instructions above.

The following points should be considered

1. A specific volunteer should be assigned to hand out food, this volunteer should have appropriate PPE (Face covering and gloves) for the task.
2. Equipment (eg flasks, toasters) should be sanitized regularly and a single person should operate these when in use. Where this is not possible a hand sanitiser bottle should be provided adjacent to the flask.
3. Disposable plates, cups, stirrers etc should be used and the use of reusable cups should not be facilitated.
4. Single use sugar sachets and other such single use items should be employed.
5. If a high demand food item (Such as Pizza) is being consumed, a distribution point must be designated prior to arrival of the pizza with appropriate queueing and distancing systems employed. The food should only be handled by volunteers who have appropriate PPE on and/or have employed hand hygiene techniques appropriate to handle food. (Ref HSA)

References

<https://covid19.failteireland.ie/business-supports/business-reopening/>

www.hse.ie

www.gov.ie

<https://assets.gov.ie/83560/42c6fd57-faa4-4913-b99b-9bf3b4fb2af7.pdf>