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The Department of Education, in response to inquiries from some schools, today issued the following advice.

The Department takes the view that all schools and colleges should operate as normally as possible on Monday next. School authorities are therefore advised to make every effort to keep their schools open but also to consider what contingency arrangements might be necessary on the day to enable them to do so.

Situations can arise from time to time when individual school authorities have to take decisions quickly on the measures considered necessary to ensure the safety of pupils. The Department recognises that such decisions can only be taken by the school authorities in the light of local circumstances and of the local advice available to them.