

NMcD/HM

February 2022

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you following the most recent update to guidance on reducing the risks from COVID-19 in schools which was published by the Scottish Government on 17 February and applies from Monday 28 February 2022. [You can read the guidance online from the Scottish Government website.](#)

The changes to guidance represent the next step in the phased approach to easing mitigations, while maintaining the focus on doing so in a way that supports wellbeing, learning and teaching.

The key points are:

- Staff and pupils are no longer required to wear face coverings in secondary school classrooms. Young people who wish to wear a face covering for any reason are able to continue doing so
- Face coverings should still be worn in communal areas or in situations where close contact is required
- Face coverings should still be worn on all home to school transport services. This remains a condition of travel in East Lothian (unless exempt)
- Assemblies can now be held in primary and secondary schools with appropriate mitigation measures in place, which may include ventilation, physical distancing and face coverings depending on the space
- School visits that support a positive transition from P7 to S1 (or other stages as appropriate) can resume as long as appropriate mitigation measures are in place. Your school will inform you of arrangements in place as it applies to their setting

Other measures, including personal hygiene and enhanced cleaning measures, appropriate ventilation, the use of one way systems, distancing between adults and limiting access to school buildings remain in place.

You may also be aware that vaccine against COVID-19 will be offered to 5-11 year olds following a change to national policy. [Further information is available from NHS Inform.](#)

While the changes in Scottish Government and Public Health Guidance are welcome and represent encouraging progress in the pandemic, it is essential that we keep in place a range of necessary mitigations that will keep staff, children and young people safe and reduce the possibility of further disruption to learning.

We are grateful for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Nicola McDowell
Head of Education