

NMcD/HM

8/04/22

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the changes to COVID-19 mitigation measures in schools from 18 April 2022. This follows new guidance from the [Scottish Government published on 25 March 2022](#).

These changes will bring schools into line with the position in wider society. They follow the changes to Test and Protect asymptomatic testing programme which we wrote to you about recently.

The key changes that you should be aware of:

- Face coverings are no longer required within classrooms, however remain necessary in communal areas. Staff and learners can continue to wear coverings if they wish and will be supported to do so if they choose.
- Face coverings should continue to be worn at all times on home to school transport as a condition of travel. This is in line with the national position on public transport.
- CO2 monitoring, ventilation and enhanced hygiene/cleaning requirements remain in place.
- Schools are no longer required to issue individual 'warn and inform' letters to low risk contacts when positive cases are identified. These will not be issued after Fri 29th April. Additionally, learners who have been identified as low risk through any other channels do not need test prior to returning to the school environment provided they remain without symptoms.
- Staff and secondary school pupils will no longer have to undertake twice weekly lateral flow tests when schools return after the Easter break. In addition, schools will no longer have access to stocks of Lateral Flow Device test kits for distribution.
- Restrictions around assemblies and subjects including drama, music, PE or dance have been removed, and for day trips and residential activities.
- While other restrictions have been removed involving for example visitors in school and entry and exit arrangements, schools may continue with some measures depending on their individual context. Your own school will inform you if this is the case.

Risk assessments

Since the start of the pandemic, our schools have had risk assessments in place which have been regularly monitored and updated. This will continue in line with national Scottish Government and Public Health advice at the time. We will also continue to work with colleagues in Public Health as required and in the case of any local outbreaks, following all measures as deemed necessary at the time.

Physical distancing

The guidance advises that children, young people and staff should “follow the wider societal guidance on physical distancing in schools or on dedicated school transport”. It recognises that, wherever possible, it remains safer to keep distance from other people and that everyone has a part to play exercising caution and personal responsibility.

Self-isolation

Children, young people and staff must stay at home and self-isolate if they:

- have symptoms of COVID-19, whether they feel unwell or not
- have tested positive, even if asymptomatic
- are required to self-isolate for any other reason in line with the requirements set out on [NHS Inform](#)
- are identified as a close contact and are over 18 years and 4 months and not fully vaccinated.

Please continue to refer to [NHS Inform](#) for up-to-date information.

The latest Scottish Government guidance represents a significant change to a number of the measures which have become familiar in schools over the past two years, and will be welcomed by many in our school communities. We recognise that some families, particularly those who remain at high risk, will have concerns and would ask that you speak to your school directly if this is the case.

We will continue to work with colleagues in Public Health, and to monitor and respond to all Scottish Government guidance to ensure we keep our staff, learners and communities safe.

We remain grateful for the support of our families throughout these challenging times and will continue to keep you informed on any further changes to guidance so you can have confidence in the measures in place in our schools.

I wish you all a lovely Easter Break!

Yours sincerely



Nicola McDowell
Head of Education