

Our ref: MR/TM

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Dear Parent

Update on guidance to schools in level 3

We are writing to update you on some changes that have been published today by the Scottish Government for schools as part of the new Scottish Government Tiers announced this week. As you will probably know Inverclyde Council has been placed in level 3.

The existing guidance will largely remain in place. The guidance states:

In schools, approaches such as:

- *following and reinforcing physical distancing advice*
- *having a staggered start and end to the school day*
- *staggered lesson change overs*
- *amendments to timetables*
- *scrupulous hand-washing and respiratory hygiene*

help to contain the spread of COVID 19. It is very important that these and other measures continue to be followed rigorously.

The key changes that will affect schools are:

1. All staff and pupils in the Senior Phase (S4 to S6) will now need to wear face coverings in lessons.
2. Adults, when not working directly with children, for example when moving around settings or when in staff rooms, administrative areas or canteens across all school settings, will need to wear a face covering.
3. Children aged 11 and under can play organised contact sport both indoors and outdoors i.e. PE in primary schools can begin again over the next week or so.
4. Organised outdoor contact sports such as rugby can re-start for people of all ages.
5. Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to all school sites (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents at drop-off and pick-up.

Guidance on other subjects with practical experiential learning, such as music and drama has not been altered at this point. All advice is kept under review and will be updated as appropriate.

It is also advised that parents or guardians should discuss with their GP or clinician whether children with the highest clinical risk should still attend school.

Please contact your child's school if there is any aspect of this that you would like clarification about.

We thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support in this matter.

Yours truly,

Michael Roach
Head of Education

Tony McEwan
Head of Culture, Communities and Educational resources