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All Parents and Carers

If calling please ask for  
Helen Budge

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Our Ref: HB/RC/kk/H30/C-19/Cor/028

Date: Monday 28 February 2022

Your Ref:

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Update to all Parents and Carers on COVID-19 mitigations and measures in schools and early learning and childcare settings, March 2022**

I hope your children are enjoying their long weekend and I look forward to them returning to their school or early learning and childcare setting tomorrow, Tuesday 01 March 2022.

I write with the most up-to-date position on COVID-19 mitigations in education settings, including some changes for the remainder of the term.

### **1. The Use of Face Coverings**

With effect from Tuesday 01 March 2022, face coverings will no longer be required to be worn as a default position by secondary aged learners and staff within their classrooms.

**However, any young person wishing to wear a face covering in their classrooms will be fully supported to do so.**

Staff will continue to wear face coverings in primary and secondary classrooms where they cannot keep physical distance from other staff and/or children and young people

Face coverings are still to be worn by secondary aged learners, and all staff, in indoor communal areas such as social areas, and when moving around their school, as well as on school transport if over the age of 12.

**Thus, secondary aged learners should continue to bring a face covering to school.**

Face coverings must also continue to be worn by parents and carers and other visitors to all school sites, including at drop-off and pick-up points.

### **2. COVID-19 Mitigations**

Other COVID-19 measures will continue to be followed in schools as follows:

- The two metre physical distancing requirements for all staff in settings;
- The use of hand sanitisers throughout the school day;
- Daily hand sanitisation for all children and young people on arrival at school;
- One way systems throughout schools;
- Enhanced daily cleaning during the school day and further cleaning undertaken daily at the end of each day;
- Ongoing careful monitoring to ensure the appropriate level of ventilation and adequate air flow throughout the building with CO2 monitors deployed, monitoring the level of CO2, and temperature in classrooms; and
- Continued access to asymptomatic, lateral flow, testing kits for all school and early learning and childcare staff and secondary aged learners.

With the high prevalence of positive cases of the virus locally at this time, the suspension of face-to-face parents' evenings will be in place to the end of term. All schools are being encouraged to organise online parents' evenings, using the national portal, Parents Booking. Schools have appreciated the feedback from parents and carers on their experiences of online parents' evenings to date.

We hope to resume face-to-face parents' evenings and provide parents and carers more opportunities to attend their children's schools and early learning and childcare settings in person, more generally, in the near future.

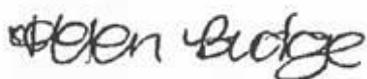
In short, all of the COVID-19 mitigations are designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to be reviewed at national and local level in the weeks ahead.

Your school will keep you updated on any changes to mitigations in schools and early learning and childcare settings and self-isolation and testing requirements.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support over the last two years and I wish everyone all the very best for the remainder of the term.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this letter, please contact your school's Head Teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Helen Budge  
Director of Children's Services