

AREAS TO STRESS FOLLOWING UPDATED GUIDANCE FROM 22nd February 2021: TO SUPPORT LIMITED ATTENDANCE AT ALERT LEVEL 4

(This should be read alongside the previous update: January 2021)

- Although we are now in a position where we can support our youngest children to return to face-to-face learning, continuing with limited attendance and remote learning for all other learners does not suggest that schools are no longer safe places; education settings do not pose an increased risk to teachers or children. Instead, this is about continuing to limit the amount of community transmission.
- We will provide onsite education provision for learners in the Foundation Phase, vulnerable learners and critical worker's children.
- During these times of limited attendance, we should maintain and not mix contact groups. Older children should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible.
- Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of learners and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. Each group should be kept apart from other groups and older children should be encouraged to keep their distance within contact groups.
- Schools with the capability to do it should take steps to limit interaction and the sharing of rooms.
- Where staff need to move between groups, they should try and keep their distance from learners and other staff as much as they can, ideally two metres from other adults. This is not likely to be possible with younger children and thus the wearing of a face covering is recommended.
- Where a decision is made to use a face covering, staff should use recyclable high quality three layered multi-use face coverings and should use them correctly, covering the mouth and nose, ensuring hand hygiene before putting on and following removal. Masks do not need to be medical-grade.
- Close face-to-face contact should be avoided and staff should minimise time spent within one metre of anyone.
- Rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) tests are available to all staff in school. They will be offered to staff to take twice weekly tests (Sunday & Wednesday). Testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate to further reduce the risk of asymptomatic transmission within the workplace. Staff should follow the guidance for testing: "Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing."
- Anyone who tests positive using a Lateral Flow Test:
 - must not attend school
 - must then book a follow up PCR test through the online booking portal
 - must notify school of the result
 - must notify other organisations as per the guidance (Local Authority)
 - will be contacted by the local contact tracing team
 - must self-isolate in accordance with the advice given by the local contact tracing team
- A negative test result does not remove the risk of transmission.
- Staff who test negative must not relax their infection prevention measures. Those living with someone showing symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19 must also self-isolate.