

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The period of national lockdown begins today, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November with an anticipated end of Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and your child's school is continuing to ensure all children, staff and parents are safe in school.

Apologies for having to write to you for the second time this week; the guidance and updates from central government are fluid and we want to share important updates with you as they are published.

The updates we are sharing with all our Trust schools are as follows.

Yesterday afternoon the government published guidance around '**Shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from Covid-19**' and '**Education and Childcare settings: New restrictions from 5<sup>th</sup> November**' which means the following:

**(a) Visitors to the setting**

Schools should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary. This means suspending parent and carer visits for:

- new admissions,
- settling-in children new to the setting
- attending organised performances

**(b) Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals**

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.

Children who attend childcare or nursery settings, whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend childcare or nursery during the period this advice is in place.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

### Reminder of control measures

We know that this is a worrying time for all schools, staff and families and that you will want to support your child's school. On Monday I wrote to you with the measures you can take which were:

- Keep to the social distancing measures on the school site by not gathering at the school gates, playground or street.
- Respect the school's request for the number of parents/carers allowed on site to drop off and collect children.
- Follow the school's staggered starts and collection times.
- Monitor for any symptoms of Covid-19, keeping the school informed about this and any test results whether positive or negative.

### Today, the Trust is advising parents to:

- ✓ Wear masks on the school site even where social distancing can be met. If your school has already asked you to do this, please continue.
- ✓ When wearing a mask, please do not touch it with your hands. If these are fabric, please wash daily and do not re-use disposable ones. There is a face mask guide attached to this letter.
- ✓ Be reminded that there is no requirement for primary school children to wear masks. However, as of today, November 5<sup>th</sup>, face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 (Year 7) when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Thank you for your ongoing support during these times.

Kind regards



Tamara Allen

Deputy CEO (LAAT)

## Face Mask Guide



### A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

### When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

### When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

**Remember that masks alone cannot protect against Covid-19. Maintain social distancing and keep washing your hands frequently.**