



## COVID-19: Letter to all schools and settings

23 November 2020

Dear Headteacher

### Use of face coverings in school: Update to Welsh Government guidance

The Welsh Government has updated its operational guidance on the use of face coverings in schools and colleges.

The guidance now states that face coverings should be worn:

- in all areas outside the classroom by staff and learners in secondary schools and colleges
- on dedicated school and college transport for learners in year 7 and up
- by visitors to all schools and colleges, including parents and carers picking up and collecting children

The move follows the publication of SAGE evidence and [a recent TAG report](#).

We understand that you will need sufficient time to communicate these changes to staff, parents and pupils; however the expectation is that these changes will be implemented as quickly as possible over the coming weeks.

Along with hand-washing and social distancing, the use of face coverings will play its part in keeping pupils, staff and parents as safe as possible. A [primary](#) and [secondary](#) template letter to parents describing the revised guidance and emphasising these points is attached. Please feel free to use and adapt it for your own use.

For further information:

- Social media assets are also available for you share which explain social distancing and how to wear face coverings  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTZvaU9CIF5u27UHyACS6AqdRTPIsJ7XO>
- Regularly updated information from Welsh Government is available on their social media channels [https://twitter.com/WG\\_Education](https://twitter.com/WG_Education)  
<https://www.facebook.com/educationwales/>

- Or by signing up to the Dysg newsletter <https://gov.wales/subscribe-education-and-training-news-dysg-post-11>
- Full Welsh Government COVID–19 guidance for schools and settings can be found here: <https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-version-4-html>
- For learners or workforce using public transport, Transport for Wales has developed a personalised exemption notice. While there is no legal requirement to have a personalised exemption note, it might help people who are exempt from wearing face coverings to feel confident when they travel on public transport in Wales. A link to a template note to download can be found at <https://exemption.trc.cymru/>