



1 February 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of The Ladies' College

I hope that you are well and, if having to isolate, have support to meet your needs and to manage the challenges that are added to what is, already, a difficult lockdown period.

I am grateful to you for all that you are doing to keep things ticking over and appreciate that this is so much harder than it looks for many parents and colleagues who have children at home and who continue to work whilst simultaneously supporting their household. Our Remote Learning Guidance policy (<https://www.ladiescollege.com/media/122368/Remote-Learning-guidance-v200427-web-version-.pdf>) tries to help to keep a balance; preserving the educational provision, helping everyone to stay connected and also keeping well-being at the core. Please try to keep a balance yourselves.

We are beginning to put in place plans to allow some of our young people back into College as safely and as quickly as we can. Initially this is for a very restricted group, who will follow the work that they would do at home, in College, with adult supervision. We are required to keep our numbers to an absolute minimum.

In your household, if both adults are **Key Workers**, or the one adult in the home is a Key Worker (for single-parent families), your child(ren) may come into College, provided that your key worker role is not undertaken from home. **We will contact all families who have already been in touch either tonight or tomorrow and ask you to return a form with details to be used by Public Health to plan pre-testing in order to return to College either over the half term break, or the week immediately following.** If you have not already contacted Miss McClean, Registrar, regarding your Key Worker status, please make contact by email to [registrar@ladiescollege.ac.gg](mailto:registrar@ladiescollege.ac.gg) if you believe that you may be added to this list.

In addition to the above update, I hope that the detail below is helpful to you as a general reminder to our whole College community. The guidance applies to us all, all the time and it might put your minds at rest with any queries that you have in respect of Covid-19 cases at College.

### **Covid-19 symptoms**

Staff, pupils and students with any flu-like symptoms must not attend the College. The symptoms to be aware of are included below:

- Fever (high temperature, rigors, chills, cannot get warm)
- Continuous cough
- Shortness of breath, chest tightness
- Sore throat

- New muscle aches and pains for no obvious reason
- New and severe fatigue
- Unusual headache (sinus pain, pain around eyes)
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting

### **Isolation**

Symptomatic individuals should isolate on their own until they have received the results of their Covid-19 test. Young children will require a parent or carer to isolate with them. The rest of the household can carry on their activities as normal, assuming they have no contact with the symptomatic individual or parent/carer isolating with the child.

Anyone developing symptoms at school will be sent home immediately. Asymptomatic siblings of a symptomatic child do not need to be sent home unless there is a history of travel – individual or any household member – in the past 14 days.

The parents/carers of any child, irrespective of their age, presenting with a runny nose and no other symptoms will be contacted:

- Is there a history of travel – individual or any household member – in the past 14 days?
- Has there been contact with a diagnosed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Does any household members have any of the symptoms listed above?

If a positive answer is given to any for the 3 questions, the child must go home and the parent/carer requested to contact the helpline.

A student or staff member who is symptomatic but has had a negative test should not return to school until all symptoms have cleared. This is to stop the spread of other bacteria and infection.

More information about symptoms is available at the following link:

<https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/symptoms>

During this January 2021 lockdown, Public Health have emphasised that everyone is treated individually and, therefore, people may receive differing advice in respect of self-isolation requirements, based on their very specific circumstances. College will not adapt individualised Public Health advice and please follow the specific advice given to you if you are in contact with Public Health.

### **To support our understanding, Public Health have clarified the key points below:**

1. Anyone who starts to experience any symptoms no matter how mild, must self-isolate immediately and call the clinical hotline on 01481 756938 or 01481 756969 so a test can be arranged. You must self-isolate until these symptoms are gone and can stop isolating once you have been tested for Covid-19 and the result of that test was negative.
2. Contacts of a confirmed case must self—isolate for 14 days, irrespective of receiving a negative test result.
3. If a member of staff is isolating with their family, the contact will be tested on day 13 and the whole family can leave self-isolation when the contact receives the result of a negative swab.

4. Individuals who have been swabbed as part of a wider cohort can leave isolation upon receipt of a negative swab.
5. If an individual receives a negative swab from a wider cohort test but is confident they are a close contact of a case, i.e., they work with the case and have worked in very close proximity (under 2 metres) to them since they became symptomatic, they should stay in isolation and the Public Health Contact Tracing Team will be in touch with them as soon as possible. (Please note that this only applies to adults as children will find it difficult to determine if they are a close contact).

### **Clarification for parents/carers of children in affected schools, playgroups and nurseries involved in current Covid-19 testing**

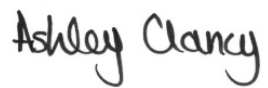
We do not currently have any College-wide testing taking place. This detail is provided to give you some insight and understanding of the process, should this be required in College. Advice given by Public Health during this current period of testing:

- For children and young people who were/are being tested as part of the ‘cohort’ i.e., wide-scale testing to investigate the extent of the issue - when they receive a negative result they can be released to normal lockdown rules.
- However, a member of a ‘cohort’ test may have subsequently been identified as a close contact of a positive case. If so, they will have been asked to go into self-isolation for 14 days from the date of their last contact with that case. They will have received either a phone call, email or a letter to notify them of this. In which case they must remain in self-isolation and they will have been notified by Public Health of the date at which they can be released from isolation.
- Some children and young people will have had only brief contact with a case and if so will have been asked by Public Health to practice passive surveillance – i.e. If you experience any symptoms (fever/chills; muscle aches; tiredness; headache; new cough; shortness of breath; chest tightness; sore throat; runny or blocked nose; conjunctivitis; loss of taste or smell; diarrhoea; rash) please call the helpline on Tel 756938 or 756969 to book a test and go into self isolation until you receive a negative result.
- When the outbreak first occurred, Public Health were hoping to regularly test those in self isolation but due to the huge number of those affected they have had to scale this programme back. In the majority of cases, children will now only be tested if they have symptoms. In this case, parents should please contact the helpline on 756938 or 756969 to book them in for testing.

Please also see attached States of Guernsey communication regarding the use of face coverings in educational settings and do not hesitate to get in touch if I/we can do anything to support you/your child in these difficult times.

Stay safe, stay well, stay in touch.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Clancy  
**Principal**

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## The Use of Face Coverings in Educational Settings

### Introduction

This guidance is intended to support early years and childcare providers, schools, including alternative provision, and colleges with new advice on the use of face coverings.

This guidance applies to the use of face coverings by staff and pupils who are attending the school settings during the lockdown period.

The use of a face covering is strongly recommended for some settings but is not mandatory activity.

### What a face covering is

In the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. Staff and pupils can buy reusable or single-use face coverings. They may also use a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face.

Face coverings are not classified as PPE (personal protective equipment) which is used in a limited number of settings to protect wearers against hazards and risks, such as surgical masks or respirators used in medical and industrial settings.

Face coverings are instead largely intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of virus that causes coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

If you wish to find out more about the differences between surgical face masks, PPE face masks, and face coverings see the MHRA's (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) [regulatory status of equipment being used to help prevent coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

### Face visors or shields

A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth.

### General approach to face coverings



The [World Health Organisation published a statement on 21 August about children and face coverings](#). They now advise that “children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.”

It is vital that face coverings are worn correctly and that clear instructions are provided to staff, children and young people on [how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings](#) in all of the circumstances above, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

### Early Years Settings

It is not mandatory for face coverings to be worn in these settings, but it is strongly recommended in situations indoors where social distancing between **adults** in settings is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). In these instances, settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors whilst acknowledging some individuals may be exempt.

### Primary Schools

It is not mandatory for face coverings to be worn in these settings, but it is strongly recommended in situations indoors where social distancing between **adults** in settings is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). In these instances, settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors whilst acknowledging some individuals may be exempt.

During lockdown, on the basis of current evidence and in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms, aiming for 2 metres wherever possible. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided

### Secondary Schools/Post-16 Education

It is recommended that pupils in Year 7 – Year 13 and staff wear face coverings. It is not mandatory for face coverings to be worn in these settings, but it is strongly recommended in



situations indoors where social distancing between **adults/pupils** in settings is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). In these instances, settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site (staff and visitors) and pupils whilst acknowledging some individuals may be exempt.

During lockdown, on the basis of current evidence and in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom where social distancing of 2 metres is maintained wherever possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided

### All settings

During a period of lockdown, it is strongly recommended that students, staff and parents/visitors wear a face covering if they need to use Public Transport, on arrival in the school grounds, when moving around the building indoors and outside and when using communal areas.

### Access to face coverings

It is reasonable to assume that staff and young people will now have access to face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, and Public Health England has made available resources on how to [make a simple face covering](#).

However, where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled or unsafe, education settings should take steps to have a small contingency supply available to meet such needs.

No one should be excluded from education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.



## Media Release

For immediate release

**Date: 01/02/2021**

### Education Settings prepare to reopen

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Head teachers and leaders of early years settings will be reaching out to some parents later today to ask them to register interest in sending their children in to settings and schools for childcare and supervision during the half-term break, as the island prepares to partially reopen its education sites.

The purpose of this contact is to prepare Public Health services for the roll-out of a new testing system which is being developed to support the reopening of education sites as safely as possible.

In the first island-wide lockdown, education settings remained open to all vulnerable children and the children of all essential and critical workers to allow them to work and not have to worry about childcare. However, given the current situation across the island and the importance of keeping the numbers of children and staff on any education site as low as possible, it is necessary to further filter those eligible to access on-site childcare.

Teams of officers from ESC and HSC have been hard at work to develop a system which will safely allow these targeted groups of vulnerable children and children of some essential workers to benefit from on-site care next week.

This plan involves a robust testing system, which will see any children or staff tested before entering a setting. They will then be continually tested on a rolling basis going forwards.

The strengthened criteria for qualifying for this childcare means that **only children whose parents are both essential workers** (unless in a single parent household), **AND where all adults in the home need to leave the house to work** will be allowed to attend.

Early Years Settings, Special Schools, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools (for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 primarily) will be initially prioritised in this new programme of testing. The College of FE will continue to offer remote support as required for any learners who need contact next week. Children attending the island's special schools and who may have



complex medical needs will be supported through a bespoke programme of partnership support between HSC and ESC and will be invited into school on an individual basis.

Those parents of eligible children for half-term support are being asked to respond quickly to their schools or settings. This will help to establish the numbers that will need to be tested quickly and in time for attendance on-site during half-term. Once expressions of interest for attendance, in line with the criteria noted above, have been collated Head Teachers and settings leaders will issue individual invitations to those children who are eligible to attend over the half-term period and Public Health teams will take this information forward to develop the testing process.

**Ends**

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