



Media Release

For immediate release

Date: 29 November 2021

Secondary and post-16 students and staff must wear face coverings in communal areas from tomorrow

From tomorrow (Tuesday 30th November 2021), students and staff in secondary and post-16 education settings, and staff in primary schools, must wear face coverings in communal areas.

This change is being introduced to try and increase protective measures for staff and students in the run up to Christmas and is due to varying levels of take-up amongst students and staff across schools to the previous 'strongly recommended' guidance.

This means that, from tomorrow:

- Children and young people in Year 7 – Year 13 and staff in secondary schools and staff and students at the College of Further Education must wear face coverings in settings where physical distancing between **adults/students and between students** is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). It is not expected that face coverings will be worn in classrooms.
- In primary schools in situations indoors where physical distancing between **adults** in settings is not possible, staff must wear a face covering. If a child of primary school age wants to wear a face covering and can tolerate wearing one, then they should be supported to do so.
- In Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) schools and settings, face coverings will be worn by staff and students when and where possible.
- Face coverings for students in Years 7 – 13 will be required on school transport. Most children will be able to wear their face covering without difficulty for their bus journey. However, no child should be prevented from travelling by bus because they do not have/are unable to tolerate wearing a face covering.

The expectation that parents and carers wear a face covering whenever on schools grounds will remain, and we thank parents and carers for their strong take-up since this was introduced.

Staff, students and parents are urged to support these new measures, which are expected to be adhered to in the same way as any other school rules and settings leaders will use best endeavours to ensure compliance with this new policy position. For those unable to wear a

face covering, lanyards and exemption cards are available. More information is available <https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/facecoverings>

Deputy Andrea Dudley-Owen, President of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture, said:

‘We’re grateful to the many secondary and post-16 students, staff across all settings, parents and carers who have been proactive in wearing face coverings in recent weeks. There has been though a noticeable lack of consistency amongst secondary students as a collective and staff across all our schools, so we have decided to strengthen our policy position on this. We know that face coverings are just one of the protective measures in place in education settings to reduce risk of transmission, but it’s important that we are all as vigilant as possible, especially in the run-up to Christmas, as we seek to continue living responsibly with Covid-19 with as little disruption as possible. We know that the situation at the moment is difficult, but we appeal to our students and staff to do their bit and lend their support and whilst no student will be excluded if they refuse to wear a face covering, our expectation is that the policy will be followed by all who it applies to in the same way as any other school rule and staff will do their best to enforce it proportionately. As a community we have shown that we can work as GuernseyTogether throughout the pandemic and I want to thank students, staff, parents and carers in advance as I’m sure that all will pull together in support.’

Ends

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