

Our Ref: HTSA: Covid-19 parental ltrs/POS/JOD
Date: 6th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Yesterday afternoon, all schools across Cheshire East received a letter from Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health for the Local Authority. Within his letter, Mr Tyrer has asked all secondary schools to implement the use of face coverings for all students and staff in communal areas with immediate effect.

Previous guidance from our Local Authority has been that face coverings should remain optional and our current School Re-opening Guidance reflects this position. We welcome this new updated guidance from Cheshire East, and we will look to implement this additional mitigation as recommended. Therefore, I can confirm that **all students will be expected to wear a face covering in communal areas of school from Wednesday 7th October.**

Key Principles:

- Consistent with our current process, all face coverings should be safely stored in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. They should not be placed directly into pockets.
- All face coverings must comply with current Government guidance as outline below.
- All face coverings must be plain **with no detail, decoration or logos.**

Face coverings will need to be worn:

- Travelling to and from all lessons via corridors and outdoor spaces.
- Travelling to lessons at the end of lunch and break times.
- Inside the PE changing rooms.
- Lining up to enter the Main Hall and Dining Hall and purchasing food from the Dining Hall.
- On entering the school site each morning from the school gates.
- When washing hands before school commences.

Students arriving at school using school transport should now continue to wear their face coverings until arriving at their Period 1 classroom.

Face coverings will not need to be worn during lessons or outside during break and lunch, though students may choose to do so.

What is a face covering?

Current Government guidance states that a face covering should:

- 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 Organisation (WHO) recommends three depending on the fabric used).
- 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.
- 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.

How should a face covering be worn?

Please take time to discuss with your child how their face covering should be worn correctly. I have attached Government and WHO guidance to this letter for you to share with your child. These measures will also be explained to students in form time so that together we can continue to build upon the secure arrangements we have already developed in school.

For any child who is asthmatic, Asthma UK has provided some useful advice on how to support the wearing of face coverings. This can be accessed here:

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/what-should-people-with-asthma-do-now/should-i-wear-a-face-mask-or-face-covering/>

Exemptions

The Government has confirmed that some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- Cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability.
- Speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.

Further detailed information can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/>

If you believe that your child could be exempt from wearing a face covering, then please contact your child's Year Manager in the first instance to discuss your individual circumstances.

Arrival and collection from school

As outlined in Mr Tyrer's letter, I would ask all parent/carers to observe the following additional measures:

- **All adults to wear a face covering when visiting the school site** – please ensure you are wearing a face covering if standing to wait for your child on school site or escorting them onto site in the morning.
- **Parent/Carers to arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/collecting your child** – please do not congregate and maintain social distancing.

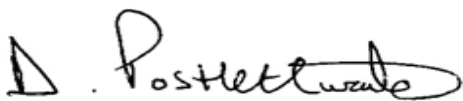
National and local guidance from Public Health England (PHE) provides schools with clear steps that must be taken should any positive case be reported. The school will identify any close contacts as defined by PHE. Close contact is considered to be:

- being coughed on, or
- having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre, or
- having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact, or
- travel in a small vehicle with the case, or
- any contact with 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact or
- extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a positive case

All close contacts are then required to self-isolate for 14 days. We will contact families with specific details (dates etc.) when the need arises.

Finally, as we move towards the end of a six week period, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank your child(ren) for their positive engagement in all that is being asked of them at this moment in time. Their behaviour and enthusiasm embracing of the new procedures has been extremely positive.

Yours sincerely



D Postlethwaite
Headteacher