

# Covid-19 update from the Education and Skills Team

Professional Advocates for Children in Education, Governor Support, NQTs, Early Years, the Virtual School for Looked after Children and In Year Fair Access

## A few snippets and a brilliant graph

The mathematician in our team is delighted that our health colleagues have let us share the face mask graph on the next page. There are a small number of schools that are continuing to have big problems with Covid cases at the moment, but we urge you to think masks even if you are not one of those schools. The graph does not lie!

Stay safe and take care

Pauline, Jo, and the E&S team

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## Governor Teatime Topic

The next Governor Teatime Topic will take place on **29th November at 6pm to 7pm**

### Agenda

- Public Health Update: Covid19 - Marie Cowie, Senior Public Health Manager
- ECTs and the new Progress Reviews - Shaheen Parekh, Responsible Officer for ECTs

Bookings and questions in advance to be sent to [governortraining@derby.gov.uk](mailto:governortraining@derby.gov.uk)

Governors and Clerks welcome.

There is no charge for this event.

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## Ofsted Deferrals and Vaccinations

The DfE has confirmed with Ofsted that in order to support the vaccine rollout in schools for 12 to 15 year olds, any school that has been notified of an Ofsted inspection at the same time as administering the vaccine can request a deferral. The rollout should take priority.

## Covid-19 surveys

We have been informed that the Office of National Statistics will be contacting a number of schools at random to ask question from the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey (SIS). We have asked if we can know which schools but have not yet had a reply.

## A message from Dr Dewis

Dear Secondary School Headteachers,

As you are aware, I have been recommending the use of face coverings in communal areas (corridors, lunch queues etc.) since my letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> October; face coverings in classrooms remain a response to a specific situation and not a universally recommended measure. The 'Contingency framework: education and childcare settings' was updated last week and is now in line with this advice. There is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the path of the pandemic over the winter, however we are seeing an increase in cases locally as we have expected since the return of students after half term. We have found that the use of face coverings, as part of a group of measures, has been very effective in managing outbreaks in schools, and I am keen that we ensure we are doing everything we can to prevent further spread. Please emphasise the importance of following this advice with your staff and students, we are also in the process of distributing a stock of face coverings to you to support with this message.

As always, your support with this is greatly appreciated and the CCT inbox is available for any queries you may have.

Below is a graph showing the impact of face coverings being introduced at a Derby City Secondary School. After encouraging testing, we see an increase in cases identified. Allowing for the incubation period of COVID we also see a dramatic reduction in cases following the introduction of face coverings and other measures.

