

# 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

## Apparently cases are falling

But not in Derby!

We have provided a summary of the late-night changes to guidance, some of which come into effect today. We have also included some graphs to show Derby leaders and other interested readers what is happening in Derby. There is a difference between cases reported to schools, and onwards to us (thank you so much for continuing to let us know) and cases being reported to Test and Trace nationally. Dr Dewis comments on the size of the discrepancy in her letter of advice which we sent to secondary colleagues last night and which is included in this bulletin. Please use whatever influence you have with parents to encourage them to continue reporting positive test results.

The graphs show the difference at the moment between secondary and primary cases. This could be for a number of reasons but here are a couple – vaccinated students and/or face masks. Those face masks work so please have a think about Dr Dewis' advice and how much Covid is in your school or neighbourhood at the moment.

We end with a classical quote from Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus:

**Say not always what you know, but  
always know what you say.**

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

20 Jan 2022

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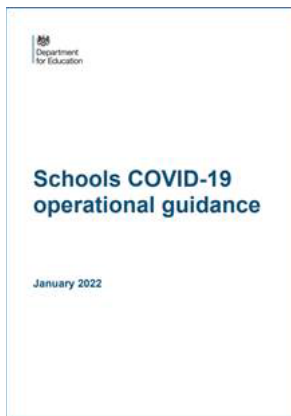
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# Operation Dead Beat



[www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

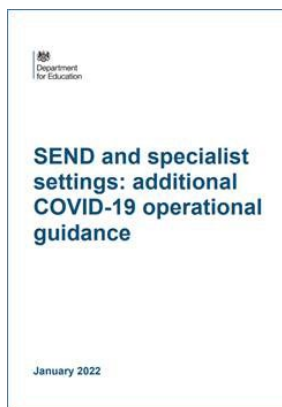
As if by magic, the guidance documents for schools were updated last night. The new elements can be found in:

- Tracing close contacts and isolation – National Test and Trace continues to trace close contacts (allegedly). The arrangements for isolation vary with age.
  - Vaccinated adults, adults who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons and all children aged 5-18.5 years who are close contacts are strongly advised to take a LFT every day for 7 days and to attend as normal unless they get a positive.
  - Children under 5 are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing. BUT they are advised to take a PCR if the close contact is in their household.
  - Pupils with SEND should be supported by the most appropriate route for testing, as agreed by their school and family, with additional support for swabbing where appropriate.
  - After the age of 18.5 years, students become subject to adult rules so will need to self-isolate if they choose not to get vaccinated.
- Face coverings – From today, following Mr Johnson’s announcements, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms. From 27<sup>th</sup> January they are no longer advised in communal areas.
- Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, **a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures such as in testing, isolation or face coverings. School contingency plans should include this possibility.**

*Dr Dewis is our Derby Director of Public Health – we continue to benefit from her advice based on local information. Her latest advice is on page 3 of this bulletin as well as some graphs of local cases on page 4.*

- Mandatory certification – This will no longer be in place after 27 January so the NHS Covid pass will not be required as a condition of entry to events and venues (though some may continue to do so). This pass should not be used as a condition of entry for education or related activities.
- Welcoming children back to school - In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.
- Workforce – the government is no longer advising people to work from home if they can.

## Operation Cold Feet



[www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings)

Almost the same updates as for the mainstream schools, there is emphasis in this one that the expectations about education recovery remain.

“Given the disruption to students’ education over the course of the pandemic, recovery programmes should continue to be delivered to support children and young people to catch up, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable children and those with the least time left in education. DfE will keep programme delivery under review to ensure they provide the right support to students and staff. We have announced a number of programmes and activities to support pupils and students to make up education missed as a result of the pandemic. Further information is available at Education Recovery Support. This includes further information on the:

- recovery premium
- tutoring (including the National Tutoring Programme and 16 to 19 tuition fund)
- teacher training opportunities
- curriculum resources
- curriculum planning
- specialist settings
- wider continuous professional development resources, including to support teacher wellbeing and subject-specific teaching”

There is also a section about residential provision which has changed slightly and will be of interest to a couple of our Derby schools.

## FAO: Secondary heads from Dr Dewis

Dear Secondary Head Teachers,

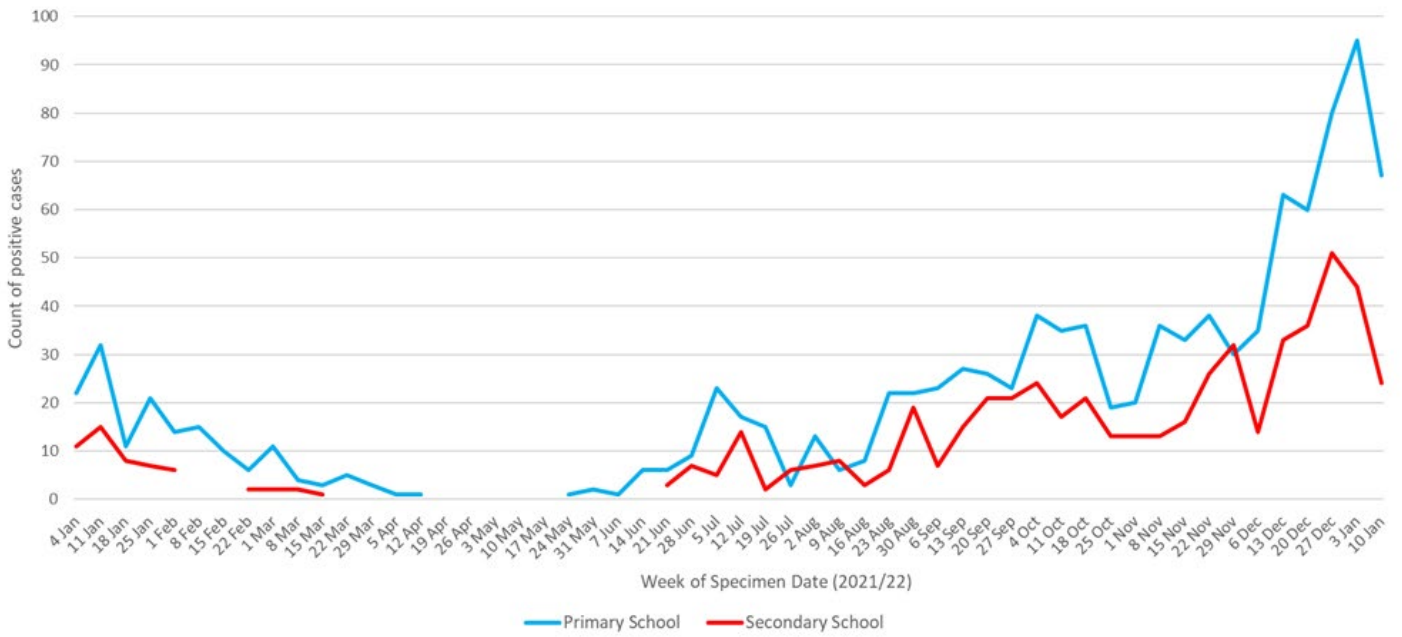
You will have seen the announcement yesterday regarding the change in guidance for face coverings in classrooms from the 20<sup>th</sup> January. I am also aware that we are likely to be advised that face coverings in communal areas will no longer be required from the 27<sup>th</sup> January. We have also been assured that the previous contingency framework will remain on place.

We are currently seeing significant cases in school aged children, which are rising following the start of this term. We are also aware that we do not fully understand the number of positive cases within our community. Due to the fantastic data returns from schools so far this month we have established that only just over a third of positive LFD cases in school aged children have been reported into NHS Test and Trace, this is a pattern reported in other areas of the Country. We know, from our previous work with you, that face coverings have made a real difference in the transmission of COVID in schools.

If you are currently managing an outbreak in your school, please discuss with the CCT team where it is appropriate to continue to use face coverings within classrooms. Face coverings in classrooms remain part of our targeted management to control outbreaks.

Please continue to recommend face coverings in communal areas as a preventative measure, whilst students are moving around the school, beyond the 27<sup>th</sup> January. Rates of COVID within Derby are currently too high to remove this preventative action at this point. We will be able to review over the coming weeks as we understand better the prevalence of infection in the community and as the School Aged Vaccination Team pick up the second doses of the vaccination with your students.

### Staff Cases by Setting



### Student Cases by Setting

