



FAO: Parents & Carers of Students at Denton Community College

RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well at this time.

On **Monday 7th June 2021**, I wrote to you outlining our current position regarding the preventative measures we have in place to help prevent the spread of infection in our school. This included the introduction of a 3 phase response to the wearing of face masks in school, as set out below:

- **Phase 1** - Strongly recommend students & staff wear face coverings both in the classroom and communal areas of the building
- **Phase 2** - Expect students & staff to wear face coverings in communal areas but strongly recommend they wear them in the classroom
- **Phase 3** - Expect students & staff to wear face coverings in all areas (Classrooms & Communal) of the school building

As part of the easing of Covid-19 restrictions on **Monday 17th May 2021** I mentioned that the reintroduction of face masks for students may be advised at a future date for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. This immediate outbreak response remained for local Directors of Public Health to advise on when appropriate.

Due to the new variants of Covid-19, infection rates in Tameside appear to be doubling week by week. This rise in cases is particularly prevalent amongst the 12 to 19 year old demographic. As you may be aware there have been several confirmed cases in local primary schools in and around Denton that have led to groups of students being asked to remain at home to self-isolate. Following the advice we received from Public Health Tameside, shared with you alongside my letter on **Monday 7th June**, we have decided to take the precautionary step of implementing the **Phase 2** response from **Thursday 17th June 2021**. This means that we will **expect** students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas and **strongly recommend** they wear them in the classroom.

The national, local and in school infection rates will continue to be monitored and we will remain in regular contact with Public Health Tameside regarding our risk assessments to keep students & staff as safe as possible. As you are aware the wearing of masks is not mandatory in schools, however when we state 'Expect' as part of our response we do expect face masks to be worn by individuals unless there is a legitimate medical reason for not doing which the school has been informed of by parents & carers.

In addition to our protective measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in school, we continue to strongly encourage the twice-weekly use of 'Lateral Flow Tests' by students. These are effective at picking up people who have Covid but are not displaying any symptoms. If you would like school to provide these for your child please contact Mr Nixon (Assistant Headteacher) at s.nixon@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk.

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

Please remember that if you or your child has any of the Covid-19 symptoms you should not send them into school; book a PCR test through the NHS; then you and your household must self-isolate whilst you wait for the results.

As before the Covid-19 symptoms are still:

- a new, persistent cough
- a temperature
- a change in sense of smell or taste

These remain difficult times and we thank you for your ongoing support not only in the education of the young people of Denton but also the safety and wellbeing of all our stakeholders.

Yours sincerely



Greg Rule
Headteacher