

15 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I wrote to you all yesterday to inform you that face masks would no longer be required in school from Monday 17 May. However, late yesterday evening I have received the following information (below) from the Director of Public Health and Well-Being for Lancashire County Council:

"I am writing to you to advise that your students and staff should continue to wear face coverings despite restrictions relaxing nationally next week.

As you will be aware, we are concerned locally about the spread across the region of the variant of global concern that was first detected in India. This step would be a prudent one that will help reduce outbreaks in schools and colleges, and help ensure you can stay open.

I am therefore recommending that you continue to follow the current guidance on face coverings until 21 June, the next landmark in the government's "roadmap". The guidance will be reviewed ahead of this date.

Continuing to use face coverings in schools and colleges along with maintaining hand washing, social distancing, fresh air and regular testing will help to control the spread of the variant.

My counterpart in Blackburn with Darwen is of the same view as me and will be providing the same advice to head teachers in his area.

I understand that this is a tough recommendation to make, but taking this step will help reduce outbreaks. This is vital so we can build on the good work to keep levels of infection, hospital admissions and the numbers of people becoming seriously ill low.

We want to do all we can to keep our schools and colleges open. The classroom is the best place for young people to learn. Wearing face coverings for just a few weeks longer until we control the situation is an effective way of helping us to do this."

We are all extremely disappointed that we will have to continue wearing masks at all times in school but obviously the health and safety of our staff and students comes first. Please ensure that your child(ren) receives this message and that they continue to come to school with a face mask on Monday.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely  
**Mr B. Corbett**  
Headteacher