

## Director of Public Health

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## Director of Children's Services

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Dear parents and carers

### **Additional coronavirus (COVID-19) measures for all early-years settings and schools**

You will be aware that nationally cases of COVID-19 are currently high, and Hertfordshire is no different with the highest number of cases in children and young people. As a result, we are asking all schools and early-years settings to implement some additional public health measures. By acting quickly ahead of winter we can help reduce the spread of the virus and protect each other and the most vulnerable members of our communities.

#### **From today, we are recommending that:**

In secondary schools – staff, visitors and students wear face coverings at all times within the school setting, except when:

- wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE or Music lessons
- outside on school premises
- eating or drinking
- someone is exempt from wearing face coverings - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

In early years, primary and special schools – staff and visitors wear face coverings when interacting with other adults within the setting, except when:

- outside on school premises
- eating or drinking
- someone is exempt from wearing face coverings - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Everyone aged 11 and over should continue to wear face coverings when travelling on public and/or home to school transport as advised. Parents and carers visiting for drop off/pick up or entering premises in general should also wear face coverings when inside or when they cannot keep a distance.

**If a school or setting has an outbreak there may be further local measures, such as asking siblings of a positive case to isolate and daily testing for secondary school students, that your child may be asked to take. Your child's nursery, school or college will contact you directly in these instances.**

These additional measures will be required until the end of term and will be regularly reviewed every two weeks. If there is a reduction in case rates of COVID-19, these recommendations may be lifted.



**COVID-19 has not gone away.** While the NHS work hard to get as many people who are eligible vaccinated against the virus as possible, there are things we can all do to play our part and help reduce pressures on our health services this winter.

### Regular testing

In addition to wearing face coverings, testing can help to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Free rapid (lateral flow) tests should be completed regularly by children in year 7 and above. If you receive a positive result, please book a PCR test to confirm the result – do not send children into school following a positive test result. Please only use a rapid test if you do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 – **a new or continuous cough, high temperature, loss or change of taste or smell** – you should get a PCR test: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)
- If you test positive you must stay at home. If you need help to self-isolate at home, contact HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

### Vaccination

One of the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Everyone aged over 12 who is eligible has now been invited to receive their COVID-19 vaccine and/or booster, find out how to get yours locally at: [www.healthierfuture.org.uk](http://www.healthierfuture.org.uk)

Thank you for your continued support for your nursery, school or college.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McManus".

**Jim McManus**  
Director of Public Health and Chair  
of Hertfordshire Health Protection Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Fisher".

**Jo Fisher**  
Director of Children's Services