

Ref: JL/SB/Next Stage of Roadmap_PCC
Date: 14th May 2021
Contact: Please contact your school for further information



To all parents and carers of pupils in Peterborough schools

Jonathan Lewis
People & Communities' Directorate
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Dear parent / carer,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement this week, Peterborough and the rest of England is preparing to move to the next stage of the government's roadmap out of lockdown from Monday 17 May.

From Monday there will be a further relaxation of the rules relating to families, individuals and businesses, but it is clear that the pandemic is not yet over. Locally people are still being admitted to hospital with COVID-19, and many are suffering the effects of "long COVID." We must take great care to ensure that the virus cannot spiral out of control again, and this includes taking a careful approach to how we operate schools and other education settings.

Testing remains essential – for both staff and pupils. It is our key protective measure against the virus: it is vital that all results of tests taken by pupils are reported to the local authority via the school. **Please make sure everyone in your house aged over 11 is taking two lateral flow (rapid) tests every week and reporting the results.** If the rapid test is positive, book a PCR (laboratory) test immediately. There is support available for people who must legally self-isolate if they or their children test positive.

More than 40% of infections being picked up in Peterborough are in the 0–17 age group so it is clear that the virus is still circulating amongst our school-aged students. Infection rates are more than double the national average in Peterborough so we must do all we can to reduce transmission and prevent the disease from reaching vulnerable people. Otherwise, we stand at a real risk from vaccine-resistant strains of the virus.

From 17 May, the Government is recommending secondary school students remove face coverings in classrooms and communal areas. However, schools may choose to enforce the use of face coverings in communal areas for pupils especially up until half term. The decision to relax rules about mask-wearing has been taken in order to facilitate learning and as a result of the lateral flow testing programme, – not because the virus has gone away. Caution at this stage is essential. Staff do not need to wear face-coverings in classrooms but all adults - including contractors and parents - need to wear a mask in communal areas such as corridors, staff rooms and at school gates where social distancing is not possible. Where there is an outbreak in the school, or the rate of infection in the local community is high, we will advise individual schools that they should reintroduce face coverings. Headteachers will continue to use risk assessments to inform the use of face coverings for staff in their individual schools.

Corporate Director: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn



Anyone with symptoms should immediately isolate and get a PCR test. Everyone in the household should isolate until the PCR test result is received and follow NHS Test and Trace advice on receipt of the test result.

Headteachers may still request that parents continue to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children from school. This may not be a requirement after 21 June, but the local authority advises that face coverings should continue to be worn until then. Face coverings must still be worn by students aged 11 and over on public and school transport.

Reducing household mixing and keeping your distance from people you do not live with (as well as washing your hands often) remains our best defence against the pandemic. For this reason parents' evenings will remain online for the rest of the summer term. The customary "taster day" visits from Year 6 pupils moving up to secondary school may not happen either. If this is the case, alternative transition arrangements will be made.

From 17 May international travel restrictions are also changing. There will be new green, amber and red lists of countries and territories. When visiting places on the green list all travellers must take a COVID19 test on their return and will not need to quarantine unless the test result is positive. However, if you travel to, or through, an amber or red list country, any travellers are required to quarantine on their return. This includes school pupils and students. If a holiday or quarantine period coincides with term time this absence must be authorised or a penalty notice may be issued. Schools or colleges are not required to provide remote learning for students who are quarantining following travel abroad. Please consider this information when arranging holidays over the half term and summer break.

We are grateful for your support through this dreadful time, which has been key to our efforts to protect and support your children. We ask that this support continues for a while longer, as schools and communities manage the final stretch of the pandemic. The Local Authority is in full support of schools taking a cautionary approach and continuing with preventative measures in general as outlined in the Government guidance for schools.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Lewis
Service Director: Education
Peterborough City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council

Corporate Director: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

