 **COVID-19 communications toolkit for schools**

All schools received a letter from the Council’s Director of Public Health in September setting out additional precautionary measures for schools to help reduce the COVID-19 transmission rates in the area.

The measures, which came into place on Monday 28 September, include:

* All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school/early years premises including outdoor yard areas.
* Parents/carers to arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/collecting their child – please do not congregate and maintain social distancing as we know that the virus is easily transmitted from person to person.
* In schools/early year settings where it has been agreed that a parent/carer can enter the school premises for drop-off and pick-up, only one adult should enter.
* All staff to wear face coverings when they come out of the building onto the playground during drop-off and pick-up times.
* Young people to avoid congregating outside school and mixing with other schools and should go directly home.

As the local COVID alert level is now high in west Cheshire and is subject to additional local restrictions further guidance was issued on the 16 October stating that the wearing of face coverings in school communal areas by adults and pupils in year 7 and above is now a requirement.

With infection rates in our communities continuing to rise, we need your help to keep sharing these messages through your own school communication channels. Please find below some suggested text for you to use in your school newsletters and on social media channels.

Ian Ashworth, Director of Public Health will also be sharing a video message later this week with a focus on half term. This will be published on the Council’s [Youtube channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/cheshirewest) and on our [Facebook](https://m.facebook.com/cheshirewest) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/go_cheshirewest) accounts if you could share this through your school communication channels.

**Newsletter text**Thank you to all our staff, pupils and parents and carers who have been following the safety measures we’ve put in place to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

At the end of September, the Director of Public Health for Cheshire West and Chester Council introduced some additional measures for schools to follow to help reduce COVID-19 transmission rates in our community. We know that the virus is easily transmitted from person to person so it’s important that everyone continues to play their part and follows these measures to help keep our community, friends, family and neighbours safe.

The measures include:

* All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school premises including outdoor playground areas.
* Parents/carers to arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/collecting their child – please do not congregate and maintain social distancing.
* In schools where it has been agreed that a parent/carer can enter the school premises for drop-off and pick-up, only one adult should enter.
* All staff to wear face coverings when they come out of the building onto the playground during drop-off and pick-up times.
* Young people to avoid congregating outside school and mixing with other schools and should go directly home.

As we’re now in COVID alert level high you can no longer socialise indoors with anyone who doesn’t live within your household. This means that outside of school, pupils from class or year group bubbles cannot mix indoors either.

The Council has received reports of some young people congregating in some communities after school has finished. It’s important that we all play our part to turn this around. Please ensure that your child is aware of the measures set out and why it’s so important that they follow them.

**Social media posts**

* On the school run? Remember to stay safe at the school gates by maintaining a safe distance and play your part to help turn this around.
* To help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 only one adult should enter a school premises, including the school playground, to drop off and pick up a child.
* When you're dropping your child off or when collecting them from school, please remember to maintain a safe distance. Play your part to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.
* When dropping your child off or when collecting them from school, please remember to wear a face covering to reduce the transmission of coronavirus. Play your part to turn this around.
* Don’t congregate on the way to or from school. Play your part to turn this around.
* Pupils in year 7 and above are now required to wear a face covering in communal areas of school, such as in corridors, where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
* We’re in local COVID alert level high. This means you can’t socialise indoors with anyone who doesn’t live within your household. Please remember that outside of school, pupils from the same class or year group bubbles cannot mix indoors either. Please play your part to turn this around. For the latest guidance on COVID-19 restrictions in our area visit: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/restrictions/restrictions-in-west-cheshire.aspx>
* Travel to school safely. You must wear a face covering for the whole of your journey if you are travelling on school transport or if you are aged over 11 on public transport, unless you are exempt. For the latest travel guidance visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

**Download social media graphics to use alongside the above posts:**

Stay safe at the school gates: <https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/461801346/41c4395d2e>​

Stay safe when travelling to and from school: <https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/468528349/13e09038bc>

Secondary school face coverings:

https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/470553003/9d3e0c0fec

Face coverings on school and public transport:

<https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/470550476/e0f6c54c3e>

Click on the arrow on the top right of the picture to download the video. Select HD1080p. Then select ‘save as’ to save it your own file.

There are also a number of COVID-19 resources, including social media graphics, available on the resource section of the [Council’s Community Champions webpage.](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/how-you-can-help/how-you-can-help.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

The Government has produced a number of [Halloween social statics](https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Hands-Face-Space-/resources/halloween-additional-social-media/) including local alert level specific ones. You can download these directly from the webpage to use.