

Email 1 - School Reopening Guidance v2.0 (Face Coverings)

Email 2 - RE: School Reopening Guidance v2.0 (Face Coverings)

Email 3 - Re: Face coverings communication

Email 4 - To: Local Authority Chief Executives & Directors of Education.

Email 1

From: redacted@gov.scot

Sent: 26 August 2020 13:22

Subject: School Reopening Guidance v2.0 (Face Coverings)

To: Local Authority Chief Executives and Directors of Education,

Copy: Independent Schools

Grant Aided Schools

SOLACE

ADES

Heads of HR, Heads of Procurement

ACTO

SPT

Please find attached a letter from Andy Drought, Deputy Director for Workforce, Infrastructure and Reform, SG, and Simon Cameron, Chief Officer, Employers Team, Cosla, regarding the publication of updated guidance (v2.0) on school reopening. This guidance includes an important update on the use of face coverings in secondary schools and on school transport.

Kind regards,

[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

Copy: Independent Schools
Grant Aided Schools
SOLACE
ADES
Heads of HR,
Heads of Procurement

Our ref: Covid-19 School Reopening Guidance v2.0 26th August 2020

Dear Colleagues,

SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDANCE v2.0 (FACE COVERINGS) This letter is to draw your attention to the updated guidance (v2.0) on preparing for the start of the new school term, which was issued yesterday. The updated guidance can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-newschool-term-august-2020-version-2/>.

It has been developed in partnership with the Covid-19 Education Recovery Group, and includes important changes to the position on face coverings in secondary schools and on school transport. The guidance was informed by the advice of the Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronaviruscovid-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues---advisory-note-on-facecoverings-in-schools/>

Implementation considerations When implementing the guidance, local authorities and schools may wish to note the following:

- No one should be excluded from education or school transport on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering. The guidance notes that some people are exempt from wearing a face covering.
- The guidance goes on to make clear that it is reasonable to expect that most staff and young people will now have access to re-usable face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society. Appropriate communications around remembering to bring these to schools should be issued.

However, the guidance also notes that where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled/unsafe, schools should take steps to have a contingency supply available to meet such needs. This is important from an equity point of view.

- Local authorities will therefore wish to ensure that secondary schools, in particular, have an adequate contingency supply of face coverings for the week commencing Monday 31 August.
- Local authorities may also wish to consider purchasing a supply of transparent face coverings to address any equity concerns arising from implementation of the updated guidance.
- The main route for local authorities to procure a supply of face coverings for schools is via Scotland Excel. Colleagues there have advised us that the supply chain for face coverings is currently strong, and that local authorities have already begun the process of ordering appropriate face coverings. The email address at Scotland Excel for any inquiries is ppe@scotland-excel.org.uk.
- The guidance notes that any additional costs associated with the implementation of the updated guidance will be considered through the Education Recovery processes agreed between Cosla and Scottish Government.

In the event that you have any issues with ensuring adequate supplies of face coverings, or any other implementation problems arising from the updated guidance, we would be very grateful if you would let us know at your earliest convenience so that we can consider any further support that may be required. Please contact **[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]** and **[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]** Thank you again for all you are doing to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the education system, and to welcome staff and children and young people back to school. Yours sincerely,

Andy Drought Deputy Director,
Workforce, Infrastructure and Reform, Scottish Government

Email 2

From: redacted@falkirk.gov.uk
Sent: 28 August 2020 08:56
To: redacted@gov.scot
Cc: redacted@Cosla.gov.uk; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: School Reopening Guidance v2.0 (Face Coverings)

Thanks [Redacted: s.38(1)(b)], I'll get onto that line of enquiry.

Have a good day,

[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

From: redacted@gov.scot
Sent: 27 August 2020 17:07
To: redacted@falkirk.gov.uk
Cc: redacted@Cosla.gov.uk; Andrew.Drought@gov.scot
Subject: RE: School Reopening Guidance v2.0 (Face Coverings)

Hi [Redacted: s.38(1)(b)] ,Thanks for your email.

Transparent face coverings are available through Scotland Excel. These are not clinically graded masks (for example, they are not Type IIr masks), but can be used when face coverings are recommended, as per the Scottish Government's general guidance on face coverings. Whilst there is no specific guidance on when transparent masks should be used in place of traditional coverings, they can assist communication for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions.

We understand that some councils have already purchased these masks via Scotland Excel, so you may wish to contact colleagues there to discuss their experiences to date. The ones we have been informed have done so are Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Midlothian.

[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

From: redacted@falkirk.gov.uk
Sent: 26 August 2020 16:23
To: redacted@gov.scot ;redacted@Cosla.gov.uk
Subject: School Reopening Guidance v2.0 (Face Coverings)

Hi [Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

Just read your email circulating the above which invited any issues to be shared with yourselves.

The issue I have is in regard to transparent face coverings. In Falkirk we have a need for these both for caring for adults and also for educating hearing impaired children. To this point I have not purchased any because of a lack of understanding of the requirements/ specification around these. I am aware of the equality risk here so I would welcome any information or advice you can offer to inform procurement of suitable transparent coverings please.

An observation, we have secured a contingency of face coverings for secondary pupils and just today identified a supplier for coverings for younger children in the 5-12 age group who

are transported to school. These coverings are not the norm for procurement so just mentioning it as others may come across this issue as they move forward.

[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

Email 3

From: Logan, Tracey <tlogan@scotborders.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 August 2020 06:46
To: redacted@gov.scot
Cc: Dailly AJ (Andrew) <Andrew.Dailly@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Face coverings communication

[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

Of course - happy to share it.

Regards

Tracey

Sent from my iPad

On 27 Aug 2020, at 22:35, redacted@gov.scot wrote:

CAUTION: External Email

Hello Tracey,

I hope you are well.

I've been given sight of your communication about face covering and thought it was very good.

Would you be content for me to share it with local authorities to save everyone reinventing the wheel?

Many thanks,

redacted@gov.scot

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

As you may be aware, guidance for pupils and staff on the use of face coverings in schools and on school transport has been updated by the Scottish Government.

From Monday 31 August, face coverings should (unless exemptions apply) be worn:

- In secondary schools, by adults and all pupils moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where physical distancing is difficult to maintain
- On dedicated school transport by all children aged five and over, bringing it into line with guidance for public transport

Face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom as there is greater scope for physical distancing and face coverings can have an impact on learning and teaching.

However, it remains the case that where adults cannot keep two metre distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) face coverings should be worn. In addition, staff and students can continue to wear face coverings in any classroom if they wish to.

Scottish Borders Council has carefully planned the return of pupils to our schools using all guidance provided by the Scottish Government. This latest update from the Government is based on the latest scientific and public health advice and we will be putting it in place across our schools.

Please ensure your child wears a face covering while moving around the school campus, if they attend a secondary school, and at all times on school transport (if aged five and over) if they travel to and from school on a bus, coach or taxi.

Guidance for families on safely removing, disposing and storing face coverings includes:

- Face coverings should not be shared with others
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser
- Make sure the face covering is the right size to cover the nose, mouth and chin.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (for example during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically
- Children and young people should be encouraged to place their disposable face coverings in the general waste bin.

If any families wish to make their own simple face covering, a [video is available](#) to show you how.

Should a pupil be unable to access a face covering or forgets to bring theirs to school, each school will have a contingency supply.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. Further information on exemptions can be found in wider [Scottish Government guidance](#).

We would continue to reassure parents/carers that alongside the introduction of face coverings we have a range of measures in place to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. These arrangements are being monitored extremely closely and will be revised as required.

Further information is available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolreopening.

Regards

Tracey Logan

Chief Executive

Scottish Borders Council

Email 4

To: Local Authority Chief Executives & Directors of Education,

Copy: COSLA
Grant Aided Schools
Independent Schools

We understand that many of you may be preparing to issue communications to the school community about face coverings in schools and on school transport. Therefore, we thought it may be helpful to circulate the attached message regarding face coverings which Scottish Borders Council issued earlier this week.

Kind regards,

[Redacted: s.38(1)(b)]

COMMUNICATION FROM SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL ON FACE COVERINGS

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Regards

Tracey Logan

Chief Executive

Scottish Borders Council