

202100249720 –Communication between EIS and SG on face coverings between 1 Jan and 21 Oct 2021

Ref	Document Subject/Title of exchange	Date	29(1)(a)	38(1)(b)
1	RE: CERG feedback - w/c 1 February	2 February 2021		
2	FW: Updated supplementary/technical guidance for schools	9 February 2021		
3	RE: CERG 46 papers and zoom details	25 February 2021		
4	Draft reducing risks guidance - latest version for consultation	1 March 2021		
5	RE: Revised supplementary guidance	7 March 2021		
6	RE: HOLD: CERG W/G	30 March 2021		
7	Fourth meeting of the Schools COVID-19 Contingency Planning and Readiness Working Group	8 June 2021		
8	FW: EIS Comments on Paper 2	9 June 2021		
9	Mitigations in schools post-summer - Advice note - 14 June 2021	14 June 2021		
9a	Attachment to Ref 9			
10	EIS Comments on 30th June Meeting Papers	2 July 2021		
11	RE: Eighth Contingency Planning and Readiness Working Group Meeting - Agenda, Papers and MS Teams joining details	21 July 2021		
12	Comments on paper 2	21 July 2021		
13	RE: Schools guidance - latest draft	11 October 2021		
14	Link to Covid-19 Education Recovery Group (CERG) website for published Minutes	CERG 38 (4 Jan) – CERG 72 (21 Oct)		

Redaction Key:

Out of scope

Section 29(1)(a) – formulation or development of government policy

Section 38(1)(b) – personal information

Ref 1

From: Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 02 February 2021 09:44

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansan@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; Ben.M@syp.org.uk; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk; CPS Hub <CPSHubCovid@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; eddie@cosla.gov.uk; Morrison E (Elizabeth) (Education Scotland) <Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot>; fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk; greg@ahds.org.uk; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org; jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk; jim.thewliss@sIs-scotland.org.uk; chair@npfs.org.uk; j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; ken.muir@gtcs.org.uk; liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk; matthew@cosla.gov.uk; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk; Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk; Sutton G (Gary) <Gary.Sutton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: CERG feedback - w/c 1 February

[Email contains no text; Excerpt from attachment – EIS feedback on face coverings:

Comment from EIS: *"Guidance sought on use of medical grade face masks in school settings."*]

Ref 2

Word doc exempt under **Section 29(1)(a) – formulation or development of government policy** – Excerpts on face coverings below:

“Implementation of reducing risks guidance and enhanced mitigations (including approach to groupings)

43. All staff (including student teachers on placements) and pupils attending schools on an exceptional basis for in-person learning should continue to implement and strictly observe the mitigations set out at Level 4 in the **Coronavirus: reducing risks in schools** guidance, including with regard to face coverings and existing requirements on distancing between secondary pupils (and any additional mitigations that may be identified within updated risk assessments; for example, additional mitigations that are appropriate as a result of fewer people being in schools). [This paragraph and various sections below may need amending following the Covid-19 Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues meeting to consider mitigations on 9 February]”

“Adherence/compliance

44. Ahead of the proposed return of early learning and childcare, P1-3 and cohorts of senior phase pupils, the Scottish Government is working with partners on the COVID-19 Education Recovery Group and more widely to develop key messaging for staff, parents and others about that return. From an adherence and compliance perspective, it is extremely important that schools remind staff, pupils and parents of the need to follow all the relevant guidance for example 2m distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene etc. By complying with the necessary protective measures, taking care of ourselves and looking out for each other, we hope to return to more normality sooner”

“Face coverings [subject to revision following Advisory Sub-group on 9 Feb]

51. The Scottish Government continually reviews the current policy position on face coverings in light of emerging scientific evidence and advice. It remains our judgement that face coverings provide adequate protection for use in the community and in most workplaces because they are worn in addition to taking other measures, such as physical distancing.

[EIS comment: EIS view that medical grade face masks, FFP2, should be made available for staff to combat increased risk of aerosol transmission in what will remain crowded classrooms.]

52. The Scottish Government’s advice is that schools should follow the current face covering guidance on the Scottish Government website is followed. This recommends:

- That face coverings are made of cloth or other textiles and should be two, and preferably three, layers thick and fit snugly while allowing you to breathe easily;
- Please follow and endorse best practice on how to wash, store, wear and dispose of face coverings; and
- Workplaces should endorse and support to staff to follow the best practice in the use of face coverings.

53. Any decision to use medical grade masks or PPE in schools (or any specific workplace settings) would need to be informed by an organisation risk assessment, undertaken with health and safety experts and public health advisers.”

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 09 February 2021 19:10

To: Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Morrison E (Elizabeth) (Education Scotland) <Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: FW: Updated supplementary/technical guidance for schools

All

A few points raised by Larry here that I would welcome your thoughts on please.

Sam/Liz – [out of scope]

Andy Drought – [out of scope]. Para 51 to see views re face coverings. [out of scope]
[out of scope]

I'm afraid the timeframe is ridiculous, but if you could get back to me by 8am tomorrow morning that would be great (need to share with CERG first thing tomorrow).

Thanks

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG@gov.scot

Sent: 08 February 2021 14:52

To: Andrew.Drought@gov.scot; CERG@gov.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]
Sam.Anon@gov.scot; Marion.Bain@gov.scot; Ben.M@syp.org.uk; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk;
Craig.Clement@educationscotland.gov.scot; Alison.Cumming@gov.scot; DirectorofLearning@gov.scot;
eddie@cosla.gov.uk; Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot; fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk;
Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot; grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk; greg@ahds.org.uk;
Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot; Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org;
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j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; ken.muir@gtcs.org.uk; Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>;
liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk; matthew@cosla.gov.uk;
Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot; pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk;
Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk; Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] Mick.Wilson@gov.scot; Diane.Stockton2@pfs.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] CPSHubCovid@gov.scot;
Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot; Sam.Anon@gov.scot; Andrew.Drought@gov.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: Updated supplementary/technical guidance for schools

Dear CERG members,

We are revising the supplementary guidance for schools in the light of the First Ministers announcement on 2 Feb of a proposed return to in-school learning on 22 Feb for certain groups of children and young people (subject to a further review on 16 Feb). A revised draft is attached for comment. Also attached for comment is technical guidance prepared by Education Scotland on the proposed senior phase in-school activity. Please do not share these drafts more widely at this stage.

Supplementary guidance

Changes in the supplementary guidance include:

- [out of scope]
- Preliminary updated text on mitigations – this will be reviewed again following the meeting of the advisory sub-group tomorrow. This meeting is looking specifically at mitigations.
- [out of scope]

Technical guidance

[out of scope]

Comments and next steps

[out of scope]

Thanks

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Ref 3

All text in SNCT panel letter is out of scope except excerpt below:

"Prior to the meeting, the teacher trade unions attending the CERG had highlighted practices in certain Councils and some schools which had served to undermine the guidance on the phased reopening of schools published by Scottish Government on 16 February. In advance of this revised guidance, most teacher trade unions present had conducted surveys of their members. In all cases, the results highlighted historic failures regarding the implementation of the already agreed mitigations. These failures include basic mitigations such as staggered start times, physical distancing measures, lunchtime bubbles, adequate ventilation and monitoring of air flows, PPE, face-coverings and adjusted timetables to minimise the mixing of pupils. To gloss over Councils' failures to ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place in schools is both unacceptable and dangerous in the current situation."

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 25 February 2021 08:25

To: Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansan@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; Ben.M@syp.org.uk; C19EdSecretariat Team <DLEDPC19EST@gov.scot>; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; CPS Hub <CPSHubCovid@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Diane.Stockton2@phs.scot; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; eddie@cosla.gov.uk; Morrison E (Elizabeth) (Education Scotland) <Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot>; fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk; greg@ahds.org.uk; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org; jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk; jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk; j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; ken.muir@gtcs.org.uk; liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk; chair@npfs.org.uk; matthew@cosla.gov.uk; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children and Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk; Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; jane@cosla.gov.uk; Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C_Secretariat@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: RE: CERG 46 papers and zoom details

Good morning Larry

Apologies for missing this.

CERG members

I am attaching a letter received yesterday from SNCT relating to mitigations and compliance.

This will be covered as part of the discussion at Agenda item 4.

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] Education Recovery | Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing Division | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

Ref 4

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 01 March 2021 14:13

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; Ben McKendrick <Ben.M@syp.org.uk>; C19EdSecretariat Team <DLEDPC19EST@gov.scot>; Carrie Lindsay <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]>; CPS Hub <CPSHubCovid@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Diane Stockton (PHS) <Diane.Stockton2@phs.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Morrison E (Elizabeth) (Education Scotland) <Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Grace Vickers (SOLACE) <grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk>; Greg Dempster <greg@ahds.org.uk>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Jane Brumpton <Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Jane O'Donnell <jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk>; Jim Thewliss <jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk>; John Gallacher <j.gallacher@unison.co.uk>; Ken Muir <ken.muir@gtcs.org.uk>; Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; Liam Fowley MSYP <liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk>; Margaret Wilson (NPFS) <chair@npfs.org.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children and Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Pauline Stephen (GTCS) <pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Sheena Devlin <SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk>; Stephen McCabe <Stephen.McCabe@inverdyde.gov.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: Draft reducing risks guidance - latest version for consultation

Dear CERG members

Attached is the latest draft of the reducing risks guidance. This was last published in October and is now a bit out of date in parts. As we anticipate more children and young people returning to school in the coming weeks we have decided to update this full guidance, and incorporate various elements of the supplementary guidance that we have published recently to ensure that we once again have a single point of guidance for schools and local authorities.

The attached version remains a work in progress, but we were keen to share it with you as soon as possible. The changes we have made, including the incorporation of text from the supplementary guidance, is in track changes. There are a number of sections that will need to be updated at speed during the course of this week following the further advice from the Advisory Sub-Group (which met again this morning) and the anticipated announcement by the First Minister tomorrow around phase 2 of the return to school. We intend to organise a meeting of the CERG return to school sub-group on Wednesday to discuss this.

Comments and amendments from CERG members on the attached draft are sought by close tomorrow (Tues 2 March). We will then circulate a further revised version on Wednesday evening, which will be informed by this initial consultation, the Sub-Group and Ministerial decisions, for discussion at CERG on Thursday morning. There will be another opportunity for CERG members to

offer written feedback on that draft during Thurs/Fri with a view to having a final version ready for publication on 8 March.

Best wishes

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Ref 5

From: Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 07 March 2021 19:13

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; greg@ahds.org.uk

Cc: jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Revised supplementary guidance

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Thanks for this and for the changes.

I've taken a look at the clean version and the main changes I would suggest still are not possible as they cover areas where the EIS disagrees with the Scottish Government view e.g. face coverings, vaccine priority etc.

To that extent I need to reiterate that the document isn't an agreed outcome of CERG but a Scottish Government output.

The one area where some refinement may be possible relates to S1-3 based on the confirmation from the DFM that what was envisaged here was very much a limited re-engagement exercise focused on well-being. The clear implication is that the majority of S1-3 learning will remain remote over the pre-Easter period. It may be that this is covered elsewhere in other advice but as it stands this document lacks clarity on this area – even allowing for local flexibility as the order of the day.

Best wishes

Larry

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG@gov.scot

Sent: 05 March 2021 08:56

To: CERG@gov.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Sam.Anon@gov.scot; Marion.Bain@gov.scot; Ben.M@syp.org.uk; DLEDPC19EST@gov.scot; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; CPSHubCovid@gov.scot; Alison.Cumming@gov.scot; Diane.Stockton2@phs.scot; DirectorofLearning@gov.scot; Andrew.Drought@gov.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot; fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk; Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot; grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk; greg@ahds.org.uk; Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot; Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org; jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk; jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk; j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; ken.muir@gtcs.org.uk; Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk; chair@npfs.org.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot; MinisterCYP@gov.scot; pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk; Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk; Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

information]Mick.Wilson@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: Revised supplementary guidance

Dear CERG members

Following yesterday's meeting, a number of members raised concerns about the length of the revised supplementary guidance. We have therefore reduced it in length quite significantly. The attached revised version now contains largely new material which reflects the proposed new arrangements from 15 March. In addition, we have left in existing text on key issues like health and wellbeing, compliance and shielding.

If you have any comments on the revised version, could you please get back to me by **4pm this afternoon**. Apologies if you have already begun making comments on the draft that I circulated yesterday – if you have done that, please share with me anyway and I will incorporate your comments into this revised version.

Many thanks

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Ref 6

From: Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansan@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 March 2021 18:14

To: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Grace.Vickers@midlothian.gov.uk; eddie@cosla.gov.uk; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk; Polly.Mazurkiewicz@sqa.org.uk; Pauline.Stephen@gtcs.org.uk; greg@ahds.org.uk; lflanagan@eis.org.uk; Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org; j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk; matthew@cosla.gov.uk; sue.pope@sqa.org.uk; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] Morrison E (Elizabeth) (Education Scotland) <Elizabeth.Morrison2@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]
Cc: Maria Lloyd <Maria.Lloyd@fife.gov.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]
Subject: RE: HOLD: CERG W/G

All,

Please find attached a paper to support this discussion tomorrow.

In essence, our task is to consider what type of info we want the sub-group to consider regarding the alignment of future guidance with protection levels. We agreed last week that we might advocate for minimal changes between now and the end of the academic year, but it may be that we want to identify a small number of restrictions where we believe there'd be disproportionate education benefits if we could take a less stringent approach.

As per the diary request, I don't see us needing as much time as usual tomorrow – 30 mins should be plenty.

See you then,

Sam

Sam Anson | Joint Head of the Covid Education Strategy and Recovery Division | Learning Directorate | [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Extract of Word Doc:

Mitigating measure	Current guidelines	Possible options for reducing the mitigation measure	Areas for consideration
Face coverings	Face coverings should now be worn at all times by staff and young people in secondary schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing the year groups expected to wear face coverings at all timesReducing the areas where face coverings should be worn eg in classrooms	

Ref 7

Excerpt from Paper 1, paragraph 5:

"5. Against this background, the approach that schools should take to planning for mitigations after the school holidays is as follows:

- Mitigations are not expected to change materially prior to the end of this (summer) term. This reflects the advice of the Advisory Sub-group on Education and Children's Issues that a precautionary approach should be taken to easing key risk mitigations (such as physical distancing and face coverings) in view of the Delta variant and current levels of vaccination amongst staff and children and young people.*
- Provided the public health situation permits mitigations to be eased in schools at the time of return, advice will set out which mitigations should be removed first, and any baseline mitigations that should be retained. Schools should in general expect to prioritise for early removal those mitigations that are less logistically challenging than others to remove/reinstate, or that have a greater impact on curriculum and education (e.g. face coverings in classrooms, remaining restrictions on physical education or expressive arts, etc.), provided it is safe to do so."*

Excerpt from Paper 2, paragraph 5:

"What specific systems/arrangements do schools and local authorities need to hold in readiness to ensure they can transition between levels as smoothly as possible? For example, stocks of face coverings and PPE, school transport contracts, standardised communication templates, etc."

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 08 June 2021 16:43

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; 'Andrea Bradley' <abradley@eis.org.uk>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; 'Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk' <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>; 'chair@npfs.org.uk' <chair@npfs.org.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; 'eddie@cosla.gov.uk' <eddie@cosla.gov.uk>; OCEX Hub <EdS_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; 'greg@ahds.org.uk' <greg@ahds.org.uk>; 'j.gallacher@unison.co.uk' <j.gallacher@unison.co.uk>; 'jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk' <jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] 'Kay Sillars' <K.Sillars@unison.co.uk [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] 'lflanagan@eis.org.uk' <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; 'liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk' <liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk>; 'Liz McGrath' <liz.mcgrath@sqa.org.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Watson PA (Patricia) <Patricia.Watson@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; 'pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk' <pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; 'Sheena Devlin' <SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Cc: Robertson A (Agnes) <Agnes.Robertson@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: Fourth meeting of the Schools COVID-19 Contingency Planning and Readiness Working Group

To: Contingency Planning and Readiness W/G members

Dear all

With thanks to those who have offered ideas and input since our last meeting. Please find attached papers, Agenda and MS Teams link below for the fourth meeting at 3pm.

Paper 1 on mitigations has been pared back to take account of ongoing uncertainty in the wider strategic framework. We intend to issue this to Directors of Education immediately after this W/G meeting.

Paper 2 is a reissue of last week's paper so that we can return to the discussion kicked off last week.

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

Best wishes

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Agenda

- Welcome
- Paper 1- Mitigations – Advice to schools on post-summer holiday arrangements
- Paper 2- Readiness and Assurance – re-issue for discussion
- Forward Look – (i) developing a contingency planning framework, (ii) readiness and assurance for medium to long term
- AOB and items for next w/g meeting

Ref 8

Excerpt from redacted Word doc: Comment from EIS 9 June 2021:

"The EIS believes that transparent face coverings should be supplied by the school or local authority to support learning and teaching and the health and wellbeing of children and young people. There may also be situations in which staff with a disability, such as a hearing impairment, will require other adults, with whom they are working, to use transparent face coverings."

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 09 June 2021 20:22

To: Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information];

Subject: FW: EIS Comments on Paper 2

Hi Andy- FYI

Andrea's comments on Paper 2

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information];

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; | Covid Education Strategy and Recovery Division |
Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

I am working remotely Monday-Friday and can be contacted via email, MS Teams or [redacted -
section 38(1)(b) personal information];

From: Andrea Bradley <abradley@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 09 June 2021 16:10

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

Subject: EIS Comments on Paper 2

Hi [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information];

Comments as partly discussed at the meeting.

Thanks.

Andrea

The Educational Institute of Scotland
46 Moray Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BH
Tel: 0131 225 6244 Twitter: @eisunion
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Ref 9**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG**Sent:** 14 June 2021 13:49**To:** 'SeamusS@ssta.org.uk'; 'dougieatkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk'; 'stephen.massey@gmb.org.uk'; 'Wendy.Dunsmore@unitetheunion.org'; 'Gallacher, John' <j.gallacher@unison.co.uk>; 'Tara.Lillis@mail.nasuwat.org.uk'; 'Darren.Waplington@mail.nasuwat.org.uk'; 'lflanagan@eis.org.uk' <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; 'jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk' <jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk>; 'Andrea Bradley' <abradley@eis.org.uk>; 'greg@ahds.org.uk' <greg@ahds.org.uk>**Cc:** Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Subject:** Mitigations in schools post-summer - Advice note - 14 June 2021**Importance:** High

Dear colleagues

Please find attached an advice note regarding planning for mitigations in schools post-summer holidays, including in respect of the schools asymptomatic testing programme. This has been developed with input from members, including unions, of the Covid Education Recovery Group (CERG) and draws on advice from the Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues. The approach reflects the current uncertainty around the Delta variant and the position post-summer, and the advice received from partners that removal of some key mitigations in school environments is significantly easier than reintroduction. This has just been issued to Directors of Education so we are keen to ensure, given the very tight timeframe for developing this, that you have sight of it and are able to reflect this approach in your planning and communications to members.

As referenced in the note, separate advice on ELC settings is expected to be produced and issued shortly. The ELC guidance is expected to reflect important key differences in the situation faced by schools and ELC settings, including that many ELC settings will be operating over the summer while local authority areas progress through different protection levels, and that some current mitigations result in capacity issues that will have a bearing on decisions that local authorities need to take about placements ahead of the next academic term. We will continue work to ensure that, as far as possible, there is broad consistency in the position between schools and childcare settings after the summer holiday period where this is appropriate.

This advice note will also be shared with COSLA and ADES colleagues, and copied to independent and grant-aided schools.

Kind regards,

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Ref 9aMitigations in
schools post-summer

Ref 10

Excerpt of Paper 2, para 15:

"15. As set out in the advice note to local authorities and schools before the end of term, alongside any refreshed guidance we will provide advice on implementation. This will include advice on which mitigations should be removed first. Schools should in general expect to prioritise for early removal those mitigations that are less logistically challenging than others to remove/reinstate, or that have a greater impact on curriculum and education (e.g. face coverings in classrooms, remaining restrictions on physical education or expressive arts, etc.). Phased removal will allow schools the organisational leeway they need to remove mitigations in a manner that is least disruptive to school teams and children and young people's education, and which reflects the public health situation post-summer holidays. Provided the advice is that it is safe to do so, schools will be asked to remove relevant mitigations as quickly as is operationally feasible."

EIS comment: *Wouldn't agree that face coverings have a significantly greater impact on curriculum as a whole; and in areas of the curriculum where they are restrictive such as Drama, other mitigations could be applied in their stead.*

From: Andrea Bradley <abradley@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 02 July 2021 17:36

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: EIS Comments on 30th June Meeting Papers

Hi All

Comments on Paper 2 attached as requested; and now having had more time to consider its full detail, for Paper 1.

Thanks and best wishes

Andrea

Ref 11

Document is now published but excerpt below and EIS comment:

*"**Face coverings** should continue to be worn by all staff and young people in secondary schools, and by all staff in primary schools, **in communal areas and when moving around the school building**. As previously, careful attention should be given to the position of individuals with additional support needs when implementing this mitigation."*

EIS comment:

"It should be made at this point too that staff and pupils can continue to wear face coverings in classrooms should they choose to do so."

From: Andrea Bradley <abradley@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 21 July 2021 20:17

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information], Drought A (Andrew)
<Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Eighth Contingency Planning and Readiness Working Group Meeting - Agenda, Papers and MS Teams joining details

Hi Carolyn

Some comments on paper 1 and some further detail re ventilation (as requested at Friday's meeting) are attached.

Almost all of the comments that I sent after Friday's meeting apply to this version of the paper too. It seems that only a small number have been taken on board.

I'll try to look at paper 2 before noon tomorrow but am already in my family's bad books for working too much today while on leave... ☐

Andrea

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] **On Behalf Of** CERG@gov.scot

Sent: 20 July 2021 16:43

To: CERG@gov.scot; Andrea Bradley <abradley@eis.org.uk>; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk; chair@npfs.org.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; eddie@cosla.gov.uk; EdS_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot; greg@ahds.org.uk; j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; jim.thewliss@sfs-scotland.org.uk; K.Sillars@unison.co.uk; Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk; liz.mcgrath@sqa.org.uk; Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk; matthew@cosla.gov.uk; Patricia.Watson@educationscotland.gov.scot; pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk

Cc: Andrew.Drought@gov.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot; Mick.Wilson@gov.scot; Sam.Ansen@gov.scot;

Subject: Eighth Contingency Planning and Readiness Working Group Meeting - Agenda, Papers and MS Teams joining details

Dear All

Please find attached for tomorrow's Contingency Planning and Readiness Working Group.

- Agenda

- Paper 1: Draft 'Back to Schools' Guidance – 16 pages
- Paper 2: Draft 'Mitigations for Schools' paper – 44 pages
- MS Teams dial in details

Ref 12

Excerpt from word document, para 84 which includes text added (in underline) by EIS:

“Physical distancing and minimising contact for adults

84. If it is considered appropriate to re-introduce physical distancing between adults, and between adults and learners who are not from the same household, two metre distancing should be maintained. This will help mitigate risk, but it is acknowledged that this is not always possible, particularly when working with younger primary school children or children with additional support needs who may require personal or intimate care. Where it is not possible, other mitigations such as the wearing of face coverings and enhanced hygiene should be in place.”

From: Andrea Bradley <abradley@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 21 July 2021 21:31

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>

Subject: Comments on paper 2

Hi [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

A few comments on this paper too.

Thanks.

Andrea

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Ref 13

Guidance document now published. Specific comments from EIS in extracts below:

"9. In moving to baseline mitigations, schools should plan on the basis that:

- *Face coverings will no longer be a requirement in classrooms for secondary learners (although they may wear them if / when they wish to);"*

EIS comment: *"This should wait for greater pupil vaccination rates"*

"Removal of mitigations

13. In moving to baseline mitigations, schools will want to consider how best to remove or reduce those they currently have in place. Local authorities and schools should in general expect to prioritise for early removal those mitigations that are less logistically challenging than others to remove/reinstate and/or that have a greater impact on curriculum and education (e.g. face coverings in classrooms). Phased removal, including any required changes to physical infrastructure, will allow schools the organisational leeway they need to remove mitigations in a manner that is least disruptive to school teams and children and young people's education."

EIS comment: *"Presumably they have the option not to remove them? Shouldn't this be stated?"*

From: Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 11 October 2021 14:51

To: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; anita.hastie@phs.scot; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansan@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; Ben.M@syp.org.uk; Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk; chelsey.c@syp.org.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Diane.Stockton2@phs.scot; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; eddie@cosla.gov.uk; OCEX Hub <EdS_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk; greg@ahds.org.uk; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org; jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk; jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk; j.gallacher@unison.co.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk; chair@npfs.org.uk; matthew@cosla.gov.uk; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Passmore E (Eleanor) <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; pauline.stephen@gtns.org.uk; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk; Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Bauld L (Linda) <Linda.Bauld@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]; Gillian.Middleton@earlyyearsscotland.org; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest draft

Hi [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

I have tracked comments and suggestions.

My earlier point about timing, i.e. not publishing during October break, remains key. Nothing is time-critical in this update and the only immediate change possible would be around face coverings in class. On that point, I repeat my CERG comment that this change should be linked to overtaking majority pupil vaccination. I am still of the view that a holiday period announcement will antagonise, unnecessarily, teachers and school staff.

[text out of scope]

Happy to discuss further.

Larry

Ref 14

[COVID-19 Education Recovery Group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/education/COVID-19/education-recovery) link to CERG website for published Minutes. FOI request timeframe includes meetings CERG 38 - CERG 72.

Mitigations in schools – approach to post-summer planning

Introduction

1. This advice note is to support schools and local authorities to plan for the approach to COVID risk-reduction mitigations in the period following the summer holidays. It should be read in conjunction with the main [Reducing Risks in Schools Guidance](#). It should also be used by grant-aided schools and independent schools to support their recovery efforts.
2. This note aims to provide as much certainty as is possible for schools and local authorities ahead of the school holidays, so that they can communicate clearly with school communities. It must, however, be recognised that the COVID situation remains inherently uncertain, and there may be a need for guidance to be updated in the event of any significant unexpected developments during the summer holiday period. In these circumstances, the Scottish Government will work with stakeholders to consider how best to provide schools with the time required to make any significant necessary adjustments to mitigations at the start of term (including any enhancements should these be judged necessary and proportionate to ensure safety at that time).
3. Separate guidance is being produced for early learning and childcare settings. This reflects the fact that many such settings will remain open during the summer holiday period, and it is expected they will be able to ease mitigations more gradually as local authorities step down through protection levels. The approach set out in this guidance note is broadly aligned with the approach set out in the ELC guidance, although the latter focuses on mitigations that impact on capacity to deliver high quality and flexible statutory ELC.

Expected approach to mitigations post-summer

4. The approach to mitigations in schools in the period after the summer holidays reflects the following broad principles/assumptions:
 - At the time of writing, progress on the vaccination programme and early data suggesting that vaccines may be weakening the link between case numbers and hospitalisation, intensive care and deaths, are providing hope that by the time schools return after the summer holidays, we can move beyond the very restrictive approach to dealing with COVID that has been necessary to date.
 - However, the approach to planning for mitigations in schools post-summer must reflect the current uncertainty around the path of the virus, and in particular remaining uncertainty around variants of concern, the impact of the easing of restrictions in wider society on transmission within schools, and the effects of vaccination on case numbers in staff and children and young people.
 - Mitigations that are necessary and proportionate to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, children and young people should be maintained in schools.
 - Any negative impacts of mitigations on children and young people's educational experiences should be minimised at the earliest opportunity when it is safe to do so. As restrictions are eased in wider society, the expectation is that comparable restrictions may be eased in schools unless there is a clear justification for not doing so.
 - The organisational and operational challenges that schools face in implementing and removing mitigations in the period immediately after return should be taken into account. This is an important driver of the approach set out in this note. Removal of some mitigations is relatively simple; reintroduction can be complex and time consuming. Requiring schools to remove mitigations too early, and to then reinstate them, would have a detrimental impact on their ability to focus on the delivery of education to children and young people. This approach takes account of the fact that current mitigations do not restrict attendance capacity in school buildings.
5. Against this background, the approach that schools should take to planning for mitigations after the school holidays is as follows:
 - **Mitigations are not expected to change materially prior to the end of this (summer) term.** This reflects the advice of the Advisory Sub-group on Education and Children's Issues that a precautionary approach should be taken to easing key risk mitigations (such as physical distancing and face coverings) in view of the Delta variant and current levels of vaccination amongst staff and children and young people.

- In the run up to the next school session, an assessment will be made by the advisory sub-group and the COVID Education Recovery Group (CERG) of the public health situation in both wider society and as it relates to schools and children and young people. **Advice will then be provided to local authorities** regarding retention, enhancement or phased removal of specific mitigations (this advice will also be relevant to grant-aided and independent schools). **Local authorities will draw on this advice to support schools to implement the appropriate course of action following the return to school.** In the event that the advice supports removal of mitigations, the following approaches will be adopted:
 - Provided the public health situation permits mitigations to be eased in schools at the time of return, advice will set out which mitigations should be removed first, and any baseline mitigations that should be retained. Schools should in general expect to prioritise for early removal those mitigations that are less logistically challenging than others to remove/reinstate, or that have a greater impact on curriculum and education (e.g. face coverings in classrooms, remaining restrictions on physical education or expressive arts, etc.).
 - Phased removal will allow schools the organisational leeway they need to remove mitigations in a manner that is least disruptive to school teams and children and young people's education, and which reflects the public health situation post-summer holidays. Provided the advice is that it is safe to do so, schools will be asked to remove relevant mitigations as quickly as is operationally feasible.
 - **Mitigations should not be removed until this advice/assessment has been provided**, unless current guidance already supports a protection levels-based approach (e.g. for physical education and expressive arts) and a local authority area has moved up or down the protection levels.
6. The COVID Education Recovery Group (CERG) will continue to monitor relevant data over the summer holiday period. A working group of CERG will continue work to develop a contingency planning framework that we expect will support the management of any school outbreaks in the next school session, aligned with Scotland's wider strategic framework.

Preparations for Lateral Flow Device testing

7. Schools should continue to offer testing to any staff who are still in school buildings during the summer holidays, and to secondary pupils who are attending school buildings for summer camps, etc. It is also possible to make use of the [universal testing offer](#) to support these circumstances, in the event of any logistical challenges around supply of test kits.
8. The programme may be paused for staff and pupils who are not attending school buildings over the summer. However, schools should promote the universal testing offer to staff and pupils prior to the summer holidays, and encourage them to continue testing at home over the summer period, in line with advice to wider society.
9. Schools should plan to be able to continue the at-home testing offer for school staff and secondary pupils in the period immediately following the summer holidays. To support this, schools should:
- provide all staff and pupils with a pack of test kits before going on leave, which they can use to restart testing in the week prior to return;
 - for P7 pupils who are transitioning into S1, secondary schools can either provide test kits directly to pupils (e.g. during transition experiences) or, if this is not logistically possible, make clear that the families of P7 pupils should order their initial test kits in advance of the new term via the universal testing offer;
 - ensure they have in place sufficient stock to support testing during the first few weeks after the return (more kits may of course be ordered during those initial weeks on return if required); and
 - continue to promote the importance of testing and recording results (whether positive, negative or void) to staff and secondary pupils at the start of the next school session. Schools should consider reissuing electronic consent forms (guidance is available to school testing leads on Objective Connect) to pupils/staff who are not currently participating, and engaging with school communities to emphasise the importance of testing in preventing COVID from entering schools.