

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG
Sent: 06 October 2021 19:32
To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; 'Redacted@ssta.org.uk' <Redacted@ssta.org.uk>; 'Redacted@voicetheunion.org.uk' <Redacted@voicetheunion.org.uk>; Redacted@gmb.org.uk' <Redacted@gmb.org.uk>; Redacted@unitetheunion.org' <Redacted@unitetheunion.org>; Redacted <Redacted@unison.co.uk>; 'Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk' <Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk>; ' Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk' <Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk>
Cc: 'Redacted@cosla.gov.uk' <Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Schools guidance - latest version for comment

Dear colleagues

Following the Advisory Sub-group meeting yesterday we have prepared revised guidance for schools to apply after the school October holidays. The revised version is attached with the changes from the last version in track changes.

The main changes reflect the subgroup's advice, key elements of which are described below (NB my bold):

- The sub-group reiterated its advice from August 2021 that in order to balance ongoing COVID-19 mitigations in schools and ELC settings with other harms, e.g. to children and young people's education and wellbeing, mitigations should remain in place for no longer than is necessary based on the state of the epidemic and evidence about risk. Informed by this starting point, the sub-group advised that, given decreasing case rates across all age groups and current evidence on the state of the epidemic (with R back below 1 and increasing numbers of young people receiving a first dose of the vaccine and for priority groups a second vaccine dose) **it would be appropriate at this time to move to baseline mitigations in schools after the October break.**
- This would mean there would **no longer be a requirement for young people in secondary schools to wear face coverings in class** although they (and staff in primary and secondary schools and ELC settings) would still be required to wear face coverings when in communal areas or when moving around the building. The sub-group advised that staff should also continue to maintain at least 1m physical distancing from other adults, in line with the requirements for other workplaces
- The sub-group also advised that **restrictions on assemblies (including those for religious observance purposes) should be removed**, with the understanding that there remains an associated risk

of gathering together in large groups. Schools should, therefore, consider the numbers that can be safely accommodated for the purpose of assemblies within the school estate. Face coverings should continue to be worn by secondary aged pupils in assemblies as this would constitute a communal area of the school.

- In line with the removal of these mitigations, the sub-group advised that **more emphasis should be placed on the remaining baseline mitigations**. In particular the importance of measures to increase ventilation and the continued need for asymptomatic testing.

With apologies for the timescales involved, the intention is to publish the revised guidance on Tues 12 October in order to give some notice to those schools who return from the October break on Mon 18th. I am therefore looking for comments by 10am on Friday 8th October please. There will also opportunities to discuss the revised guidance at CERG on Thursday morning and the Workforce Issues Group meeting on Thursday afternoon.

We will then share a near final version with you on Friday evening so you can see how we have taken your comments into account and offer any final comments as we look towards publication on Tuesday.

Many thanks

Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>

Sent: 08 October 2021 08:59

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>

Subject: Guidance

Hi Sam

Please find attached a document with some comments appended.

More broadly I would reiterate the comments made by NASUWT, and others, during the course of the WIG. It is premature to remove all these mitigations. No evidence has been presented to show that the current mitigations are having a deleterious effect on learning and certainly removing mitigations does create an environment where COVID is more likely to spread leading inevitably to young people isolating or sick which would have a much greater impact.

The 12-15 year old vaccination take up is still at the early stages and we do not have an accurate picture of the extent of ventilation in the school estate. Indeed ventilation is not a one day check and as the temperature drops during Autumn/Winter an ongoing assessment will need to be made. We also have feedback from teachers on the ground of the inconsistency and variability around ventilation measuring which mitigates against a consistent, accurate national picture. It isn't clear why the SG is so keen to remove the mitigations

prior to the ventilation report and any assessment of its accuracy, strengths or weaknesses.

All in all, removing mitigations now seems incredibly foolhardy, especially as Humza Yousaf has stated only this week that Scotland's NHS faces an "incredibly, incredibly difficult winter". We should look to the experience in other nations in the UK - in England for example cases are higher in school-age pupils than they have ever been. The latest ONS figure are estimating 5% of secondary pupils were infected last week, with hospitalisations of children also much higher now. The ONS data, when compared to the DfE data also suggests once again that teachers have a significantly higher infection rate than the general population. Copying England's approach, which it appears is essentially what the proposals seek to do, risks copying England's trajectory in terms of cases also. It should also be noted that a number of Local Authorities in England are 'rebellious' against the DfE's guidance and re-introducing additional mitigations.

Finally, it is a point raised previously but worth reiterating, teachers remain concerned with the current guidance surrounding self-isolation and it must be one of the key drivers of the spread of the virus in schools is that children living with confirmed cases are expected to attend school and are only advised to take a PCR test.

I look forward to receiving an updated copy of the draft guidance once changes have been made.

Many thanks

NASUWT Union

From: Redacted <Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk>
Sent: 08 October 2021 10:57
To: Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Guidance

Thanks Sam - as always it is easier to remove something than it is to reintroduce it which I hope is also being factored in.

Best wishes

NASUWT Union

From: Sam Anson <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 October 2021 09:41
To: Redacted <Redacted@mail.nasuwt.org.uk>; CERG@gov.scot

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>; Redacted

Subject: RE: Guidance

Thanks Redacted,

We'll review these comments as we make further edits. Appreciate you taking the time to get back to us.

I hear what you're saying about the timing, and I agree with you that we need to remain vigilant. The subgroup took the factors you highlight into account, and reached a view that the balance of harms now tends towards these additional changes. As you know, they particularly pointed to decreasing case rates (NB including since the recent changes to self-isolation policy), an R rate that is below 1, extremely high rates of the adult population being fully vaccinated, and increasing numbers of young people receiving a first dose of the vaccine (and, for priority groups, a second vaccine dose).

We're working on this right now and will get a further version to you later today,

Sam

Sam Anson (he/him) | Head of the Covid Education Strategy and Recovery Division | Learning Directorate | Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 08 October 2021 13:34

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Subject:

I'm not sure where we are with consultation on the updated guidelines so rather than track detailed comments I would wish to make a few key points in the hope that there is time for further consideration.

The first relates to the timeline. It is disrespectful to the teaching profession, and will be perceived as antagonistic, to seek to publish next Tuesday at the start of the October break for most practitioners with a view to implementation on the first day of return. Has nothing been learned over the course of the pandemic about the importance of taking staff with change? I am informed that it was suggested at WIG that an imperative was a possible legal challenge to SG. If that is part of the motivation for speed, that is even more disreputable.

The key mitigation change which is problematic is green lighting face to face parent evenings. Not only does this raise the efficacy of such events (with many schools reporting more effective engagement in the alternative arrangements made) it clearly works against the general direction to wfh where possible in that it invites a potentially problematic adult gathering which does not have to be an in-person arrangement. Are we going to organise CERG meetings physically, because we now could? Probably not and most of us will

continue to work from home whilst teachers and school staff are present in schools.

I guarantee that this change will provoke real anger amongst school staff. It should not be included in the update.

EIS Union

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 October 2021 11:36

To: Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted@cosla.gov.uk' <Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted @pkc.gov.uk; Redacted <Redacted@fife.gov.uk>

Subject: Latest guidance

All

Here is the latest version which takes account of yesterday's CERG and WIG discussions and the written comments that we have received. We are planning to discuss at 1215, but if you are not coming to that, any written comments by 3pm please so that we can make further changes and issue to CERG etc.

Thanks

Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@pkc.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 October 2021 14:57

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@cosla.gov.uk; Redacted@cosla.gov.uk; Redacted@fife.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Latest guidance

Redacted

Thanks for this and apologies for being unable to join you all at lunchtime.

I have added a few comments and made a couple of suggested changes to specific bits of text for consideration.

Happy to review again once you have a further draft if that would be helpful.

Hope everyone can have a decent weekend without too much work needing done.

Best wishes

Redacted

Redacted | Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) | Council Building | 2 High Street | Perth | PH1 5PH

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 October 2021 16:15
To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@fife.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; OCEX Hub <EdS_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@sqa.org.uk>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@midlothian.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@ahds.org.uk>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@sls-scotland.org.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@unison.co.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@eis.org.uk>; redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@sypmail.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@npfs.org.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; McManus J (Janie) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Passmore E (Eleanor) <Redacted@gov.scot> Redacted<Redacted@gtcs.org.uk>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@pkc.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@inverclyde.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted <Redacted@phs.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Schools guidance - latest draft

Dear CERG members

Thanks very much for all the comments we received at CERG and WIG and for the written comments. The latest version of the revised guidance is attached for further comment.

We heard the concerns about timing and so have included text at the top of the document to make clear that the move to baseline mitigations etc should take place "as soon as practicable" after the October holidays rather than

immediately on the return to school. We will also emphasise that point when we write out to local authorities.

We have also adjusted the introductory text to make clear that current practice, eg on assemblies and parents consultations, should not necessarily be discarded, but that more face to face interaction is now an option as well – local authorities can take decisions about that based on their local circumstances. In effect, this makes the guidance enabling as opposed to prescriptive, in accordance with the principle of moving towards a model of more informed local decision making. To be clear, however, baseline mitigations such as enhanced cleaning, hand hygiene, ventilation, asymptomatic testing etc remain in place and required across all settings.

In direct response to your feedback, we have also decided to move publication of the revised guidance back a little, to allow you more time to review and comment on this iteration. We are now planning to publish the revised guidance on Wednesday 13 or Thursday 14 October. Could you therefore let me have any written comments by **09:30 on Tuesday 12 October**.

Many thanks

Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 10 October 2021 13:38

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@fife.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; OCEX Hub <EdS_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@sqa.org.uk>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@midlothian.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@ahds.org.uk>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@sls-scotland.org.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@unison.co.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@eis.org.uk>; redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@sypmail.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@npfs.org.uk>;

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People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Passmore E (Eleanor)
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(Malcolm) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>;
Redacted<Redacted@pkc.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@inverclyde.gov.uk>;
Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted
<Redacted@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director for
Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>;
Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>;
Redacted<Redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted
<Redacted@phs.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>**Subject:** RE:
Schools guidance - latest draft

Dear Redacted

Thank you for this. We will feedback by the deadline but I wish to comment on the suggestion that delaying publication until Wednesday or Thursday is somehow a response to the concerns which were raised at CERG. The key issue raised was that issuing the updated guidance during a period of school holidays was both disrespectful to schools and staff and likely to provoke a hostile reaction to the apparent insensitivity of the Scottish Government to the very real pressures being felt within the system. Delaying publication by one or two days, about which there is little choice unless you expect significant responses over the weekend, but still planning on publication during the October break seems to me to have missed the point completely and presenting it as some sort of inclusive concession is no more than an exercise in sophistry.

Additionally, CERG won't be given the opportunity to consider the changes made or the suggestions fed back from different sources but no doubt we will be referenced as having been "consulted" in the Guidance drafting.

The EIS will be making clear, publicly and to members, that these are not agreed changes.

EIS Union

From: Redacted <Redacted@eis.org.uk>

Sent: 11 October 2021 14:51

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@fife.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Redacted@gov.scot>;

Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Director of Learning
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Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@sls-
scotland.org.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@unison.co.uk>;
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(Malcolm) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>;
Redacted<Redacted@pkc.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@inverclyde.gov.uk>;
Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted
<Redacted@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director for
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Redacted<Redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted
<Redacted@phs.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE:
Schools guidance - latest draft

Hi Redacted

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.

The most contentious area is likely to be in-person parent evenings. The speed of the update has meant that we haven't been able to consult members directly on the issue, but that would be our intention post October break. In the meantime, we will be issuing enabling advice to our school branches to resist this change as forcibly as members within a school, or possibly a local authority, are willing. There should certainly be WTA and LNCT level discussions before any change is agreed.

Happy to discuss further.

EIS Union

From: Redacted <Redacted@midlothian.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 October 2021 10:24

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: Schools guidance - latest draft

Dear Redacted,

Thank you. Some minor points from me below:

- Paragraph 100 still refers to retaining 2m physical distancing if building facilitates this, is this still required?
- Paragraph 108, community learning and development programme, still refers to these as supporting children and young people. Can this be clearer re the broader community learning and development programmes involving adults learning within school settings.
- Also, if possible, it may be helpful to include a statement about assessments undertaken to support qualifications as many schools may wish to start planning for prelims. This could be included in the section re large group gatherings or added to section after statement re assemblies.

With thanks,

Redacted

Midlothian Council | Midlothian House | Buccleuch Street | Dalkeith | EH22 1DN

Tel: Redacted | Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@sqa.org.uk> **On Behalf Of** Fiona Robertson

Sent: 12 October 2021 09:53

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Fiona Robertson <Redacted@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest draft

Hi Redacted

SQA would like to suggest:

In paragraph 103 re visitors to school, explicit mention could be made of SQA staff and appointees (eg visiting assessors and visiting verifiers).

Kind regards

Redacted

Redacted

Personal Assistant to Fiona Robertson, Chief Executive

From: Redacted <Redacted@ahds.org.uk>

Sent: 12 October 2021 09:36

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@eis.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest draft

Redacted, Sam

(copied to Redacted to see my second paragraph below and suggestion in para 1 of draft)

Sorry I am up to the wire with this. Thanks for your work updating the earlier draft in such a short time-frame. The revised version covers many of the points I raised in relation to the earlier draft so, from my perspective, is much improved.

I particularly welcome the messaging about implementation being enabled rather than mandated immediately. The timing of the guidance will still be problematic though and I agree with Redacted point that there is nothing that is genuinely time critical in this – and I think the guidance recognises that in the opening paragraphs. The spread of October breaks is not helpful here in that if you publish as planned then you will be doing so in the middle of a week where most schools are off and it will result in another disrupted break for school leaders in particular. If you publish when Redacted suggests then there are others for whom it will be the middle or the start of their break. With that in mind I'm more concerned that there needs to be a very clear indication in the guidance and covering messaging that there is not an expectation that schools will start to act on this until they return from their October break – as was the case for the guidance to be implemented after summer – and then we can all major on this in our communications to members. I have suggested an additional sentence trying to capture this at the end of the first paragraph.

Paragraph 3 is good. I wonder if it is possible to beef up the LEA role in communicating to parents 'here is what we are doing and why' to give school leaders something to lean on and dissuade the messages questioning and challenging where things are not school level decisions. Certainly in some authorities there have been Director's letters issued through schools setting out approaches being taken (or 'bear with us' messages where there was still uncertainty). (I am thinking specifically about Parents' Nights where an authority might be saying that they will continue to be virtual across the authority rather than face to face during the remainder of the year due to local case rates/them already being in action/to give time for them to be planned more effectively/due to risk of cancellation or disruption because of staff

absence levels...this might apply to other features too.) Not sure where this would best sit within the guidance – or perhaps better encouraged in message to Directors with guidance?

Linked to Redacted points in relation to paragraph 5, which talks about “equivalent requirements in that are in place in wider society” and his comments about the encouragement to work from home still being in place and govt offices still being largely closed, this feels out of step with enabling parents’ nights in particular.

I like the change to ‘no longer required’ from ‘remove’ in some instances – it might be applied to others too (such as groupings, assemblies and one way systems) but it is good to see applied to the ones that it has been.

Finally, you have a note in the text about my query in relation to face-coverings on school premises but outdoors (staff and parents at drop off)...I think this is covered in para 111 in the annex but want to be sure that is still the position to ensure clarity.

Happy to discuss any of this.

Best regards,

AHDS Union

From: Redacted<Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>
Sent: 12 October 2021 09:24
To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted<Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Schools guidance - latest version for comment

Hi Redacted

Thank you for forwarding.

Sadly upon review we couldn't see a single change of any substance. Consequently, I do not think there will be much to add from my comments earlier in the week.

While the section around household contacts appears to have been firmed up somewhat, it doesn't mention contacts having to isolate until a negative PCR test is obtained.

The NASUWT position remains that it is premature to remove current safety mitigations in schools and reckless to risk a further surge in cases which would cause further disruption to children's education. No evidence has been presented to show that the current mitigations are having a deleterious effect on learning and the focus at this time should be to continue to do everything possible to reduce further disruption to pupils' education. With the further threat of increased respiratory illness during the winter, maintaining caution on Covid safety should remain an absolute priority for the Scottish Government &

employers at this time. Ministers should avoid following in the footsteps of England where the removal of essential mitigations has resulted in sustained increases in Covid-19 case rates amongst school-age pupils higher than at any other point during the pandemic.

Finally I understand the CDC (the US equivalent of Public Health Scotland) have assessed the risks of being infected from a contaminated surface as 1 in 10,000 - a significantly lower risk than through aerosol infection which is now accepted as the main infection route. In this context it is even more puzzling that CERG are seeking to remove aerosol mitigations which do work.

Many thanks

NASUWT Union

From: Redacted<Redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>

Sent: 13 October 2021 14:25

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted<Redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Redacted@gov.scot>; Passmore E (Eleanor) <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest draft

Hi Redacted

Thank you for sharing this with us, and apologies for missing the deadline of this AM.

EYS doesn't have any specific feedback on the changes outlined in the schools' guidance, as this seems in line with the Advisory group's guidance/current data nationally.

Our only comment would be if there will also be consideration given to any requirements to update the ELC guidance, if necessary, too.

However, I am sure this will already be in hand/being discussed.

Thanks

Redacted

Chief Executive

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From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 14 October 2021 09:37

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@fife.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@syp.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@phs.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; OCEX Hub <EdS_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@sqa.org.uk>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@midlothian.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@ahds.org.uk>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@sls-scotland.org.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@unison.co.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@eis.org.uk>; redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@sypmail.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@npfs.org.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; McManus J (Janie) <Redacted@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Passmore E (Eleanor) <Redacted@gov.scot> Redacted<Redacted@gtcs.org.uk>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@pkc.gov.uk>; Redacted<Redacted@inverclyde.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted<Redacted@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Redacted <Redacted@phs.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest draft

Dear CERG members

The revised version of the Reducing Risks in Schools guidance will not be issuing today as originally intended, further consideration is underway within SG prior to publication. We will provide CERG members with a further update shortly.

Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG
Sent: 14 October 2021 09:37
To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; 'Redacted@ssta.org.uk' <Redacted@ssta.org.uk>; 'Redacted@voicetheunion.org.uk' <Redacted@voicetheunion.org.uk>; 'Redacted@gmb.org.uk' <Redacted@gmb.org.uk>; 'Redacted@unitetheunion.org' <Redacted@unitetheunion.org>; Redacted <Redacted@unison.co.uk>; 'Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk' <Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>; 'Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk' <Redacted@mail.nasuwat.org.uk>
Cc: 'Redacted@cosla.gov.uk' <Redacted@cosla.gov.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest version for comment

Dear All

The revised version of the Reducing Risks in Schools guidance will not be issuing today as originally intended, further consideration is underway within SG prior to publication. We will let you have a further update shortly.

Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@ahds.org.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2021 09:44
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Schools guidance - latest draft

Thanks for letting us know Redacted.

Any issues it would be useful to discuss – more than happy to.

AHDS Union

From: Redacted <Redacted@sls-scotland.org.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2021 10:17
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Schools guidance - latest draft

Good morning Redacted.

With the exception of these guidelines being issued during the middle of a school holiday I am broadly comfortable with the content and tone

Redacted

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From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG

Sent: 19 October 2021 08:16

To: CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

Cc: Anson S (Sam) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: Reducing Risks in Schools Guidance

Dear CERG colleagues,

I am writing to provide a further update regarding the Reducing Risks in Schools Guidance.

Following engagement with yourself and others, members of the Advisory Subgroup discussed the proposals further with the Chief Medical Officer last week. This was in recognition of the fact that in the period since the subgroup developed their advice the reduction in case rates had been slower across some key age cohorts.

Following those discussions, the Chief Medical Officer noted that there are encouraging signs across most indicators, and that we are getting closer to a time when further restrictions in schools could be lifted. However, he advised a more cautious approach would be to pause any implementation until there is a

further decrease in case rates and higher levels of seroprevalence amongst children and young people to reduce the probability of a rebound effect.

On that basis, ministers have opted to follow that advice, and to monitor those indicators amongst children and young people on a weekly basis with a view to enacting changes at the earliest possible time. This reflects our shared priority throughout to support the safety of children, young people, and all education staff.

We've obviously worked collectively to develop that draft guidance over recent weeks. That work will remain valuable – I suggest we continue to finalise that now in order that we have a version ready to use / be adapted as and when clinicians determine that epidemiological conditions permit.

Best wishes,

Sam

Sam Anson (he/him)

Head of the Covid Education Strategy and Recovery Division

Learning Directorate

Scottish Government

Tel: Redacted
