

16 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Earlier this year we wrote to secondary schools and colleges in Manchester asking them to keep wearing face coverings in corridors and shared areas for a while longer. This was because infection rates were very high in our city, especially in our schools and wearing a face covering is an effective way to help reduce the spread of the virus. We also wanted to reduce any disruption to learning so children and young people could fully enjoy and take part in school and other activities.

Thanks to everyone playing their part and following the advice and guidance, Covid-19 cases have now started to fall, and we are now able to end this advice. After the half-term break, face coverings will no longer be required in schools.

However, while all school areas will begin to look more normal after half term, we must all continue to work together to keep safe and well. It's important we make sure we all test regularly and wash our hands as well as let fresh air in, especially when you spend time indoors with people you don't live with.

While Covid-19 is typically mild or asymptomatic in most young people it can be very unpleasant for some. We also know young people are missing out on the things they want to do because of Covid-related illness. Everyone aged 12 and over can now get the vaccine and this is one of the most important things we can do to protect ourselves from becoming seriously unwell from the virus. By getting vaccinated, you reduce the risk of passing on the infection to your family, friends and others you come into contact with. If you yourself are yet to have your first, second or booster jabs, I urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Children and young people can get vaccinated through their school programme or at one of Manchester's local vaccination centres. Two doses are being offered to children aged 12 to 15 to give them the best protection against Covid-19. One dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives good protection against getting seriously ill but two doses gives stronger and longer-lasting protection.

If your child is eligible for their first or second vaccine, they don't have to wait for the session in school and can attend a local walk-in vaccination clinic. You can:

- Book a vaccination appointment online at a vaccination centre or a local vaccination site by visiting www.nhs.uk or calling 119. The National Booking System is a quick and easy way to arrange an appointment.
- Visit a local walk-in clinics - [Walk in COVID-19 vaccination clinics | COVID-19 Vaccination Programme | Manchester City Council](#).
- Call the Manchester COVID-19 Helpline which is for anyone who needs help with booking a vaccination or has questions. Advice is provided by a nursing team. A translation service is available. Call free on 0800 840 3858 or text: 07890 036 892. Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm.

Manchester is also offering a free service for individuals and families who couldn't usually get to or from a vaccination centre walking, driving or using public transport for jabs - find out more - [free taxi service](#). More information about vaccinations for 12-15 year olds can be found on the NHS website - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

We know the last two years have been especially tough for children and young people and it's great to see a gradual return to normality so they can benefit from new experiences and opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you and your families manage a nice break over half-term.

Yours sincerely,



David Regan
Director of Public Health



Amanda Corcoran
Director of Education