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Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to update you before the end of term on the arrangements for September.

Education Minister Jeremy Miles has announced changes on how schools can continue to operate safely when they return.

Welsh Government continue to monitor COVID case rates across Wales, and how they relate to hospital admissions. The success of the vaccine programme gives cause to be optimistic about the future, and as restrictions are eased across wider society, educational settings should follow a similar pattern.

Three main changes are being proposed to bring some normality back to education ahead of the new autumn term. They are:

- *Face coverings will no longer be routinely recommended in classrooms in secondary schools; but they will be encouraged in communal areas and will continue to be required on school transport*
- *Contact groups will no longer be recommended and the Test Trace and Protect process will be used to identify close contacts of learners who have tested positive*
- *Normal school session times will resume*

By the end of September all adults in Wales will have been offered both vaccinations, providing greater protection for our education workforce. A growing body of evidence also shows that children and young people are more at harm from missing school than from COVID.

New advice has been published on the key changes to schools from September along with updated Operational Guidance which provides further detail.

Welsh Government will also publish 'The Local COVID-19 Infection Control Decision Framework' at the start of the autumn term so that schools have time to embed new systems during the weeks that follow. The framework will enable schools to tailor some of the interventions to reflect the level of risk identified locally, supported by public health officials and local authorities to ensure measures are appropriate to their circumstances.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

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It is essential however that we all continue to follow the guidance in relation to self-isolation and wash our hands frequently to reduce the potential of transmission in our schools.

We have already met with Headteachers to discuss these changes and will be working closely with our school leaders to make these changes and to continue to ensure the safety of our learners and staff.

There is no requirement for secondary school learners to continue with Lateral Flow Testing over the summer holidays, but we do need you to test before returning to school in September.

It is also important that you inform us if your child has a positive test over the holidays, please report this to us by calling-

- Delta Wellbeing on 0300 333 2222
- or by emailing TTP@deltawellbeing.org.uk

If there are any significant developments during the summer holidays, we will be in touch.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic summer holidays, please stay safe and enjoy.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Morgans

Cyfarwyddwr | Director

Adran Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant | Education and Children's Services Department

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