

To: Headteachers and Chair of Governors of Schools

Date: Friday, 18 September 2020

**Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire**

Health and Adult Services, Public Health Team,

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Dear colleague,

## **NYCC GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS IN NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS**

Please see below the agreed position from NYCC on the wearing of face coverings in schools:

- NYCC recommends that schools follow the national guidance on the wearing of face coverings in schools.
- The national guidance gives discretion/authority to head teachers to decide on the specific approach in their schools.
- In schools that are in areas on the 'Covid-19 watch list', we recommend that adults (staff and visitors) in primary schools and in secondary schools DO wear face coverings in areas outside of the classroom.
- The national guidance can be found here (see section 1: prevention):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-1-public-health-advice-to-minimise-coronavirus-covid-19-risks>

The national guidance states that:

- *Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances.*
- *Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.*
- *In areas where local lockdowns or restrictions are in place, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils (in years 7 and above) in areas outside classrooms when moving around communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain such as corridors.*
- *Face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.*

We anticipate that there may be changes to the national guidance in the coming weeks/months and we will review and update local guidance as necessary. NYCC will continue to support and advise individual schools as required.

We appreciate your ongoing support in preventing the spread of the infection and reducing the impact on the County.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Carlton', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

Stuart Carlton  
Corporate Director - Children and  
Young People's Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Lincoln Sargeant', with a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant  
Director of Public Health