

COVID-19 UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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Education Resources

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of our Covid19 newsletter. Not something we planned to do at the beginning of the year but it is now something which we hope will be welcomed by all staff.

It is great to see us back up and running with all our schools and educational settings open and staff, children and young people have adjusted well to the new processes in place. However, no doubt you will be aware we have had to deal with a number of specific incidents of Covid19 recently.

We realise that for all of our schools and educational settings the challenge in dealing with Covid19 in terms of implementing the preventative steps along with a range of scenarios is a daily occurrence. Therefore, the purpose of this newsletter is try and share with you some of the learning from the last couple of weeks and days.

At the forefront of all we do is the safety and wellbeing of staff, children and young people and members of the school community by following the national and medical advice.

It is imperative that we continue to keep ourselves and others safe by doing the right thing and to avoid being complacent as re-emphasised by Professor Jason Leitch.

However, despite of all this I wish to convey my thanks to all of our staff for the way you have adapted to this new world order and more importantly for the way you have supported children and young people since their return in August.

The remainder of this edition of the newsletter provides the latest Health advice in the attached letter from Professor Jason Leitch, Health Protection Scotland on colds, coughs and sneezes, as well as an update on face-coverings and some examples of learning experiences.

If you have questions please let us know educovid19@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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Special points of interest:

- *Cold Symptoms and Attendance at School*
- *COVID-19 Symptoms/ Suspected Cases*
- *Positive Cases— Learning Experiences*
- *Ongoing review of control measures*
- *Sanitiser Dispensers*
- *Spray Bottles/Anti Viral Wipes*
- *High Touch Density Cleaning Points*
- *Catering- Primary Schools*
- *Face Coverings*

Covid-19 Precautions

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus



Wash your hands regularly



Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing



Avoid touching your face



Frequently clean objects and surfaces

Face Coverings

The Scottish Government Guidance mandated the wearing of face coverings for staff and pupils in secondary schools (Including ASN) in corridors and other communal areas, and also on school transport (for both primary and secondary aged children).

The resilience and responsibility shown by many young people in this regard is to be commended.

Most people feel more comfortable using their own face covering, however a supply of reusable face coverings has been delivered to establishments.

It is important to note that when not in use, face coverings should be kept in a container inside the school bag and not left on desks or on other areas.

Smaller sized re-usable face coverings for primary schools with school transport are also on order and will be delivered in due course.

Cold Symptoms and Attendance at School

Professor Jason Leitch in his recent letter addresses in many cases, where the common cold is in circulation children will be well enough to attend school and continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. In other cases, for instance where they have quite a heavy cold, they may need to take a day or two off to recover.

Where children or young people do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but have other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, then they do not need to be tested and they do not need to self-isolate, and can attend school if fit to do so.

This guidance applies equally to staff. A copy of the letter is attached

COVID-19 Symptoms/Suspected Cases

It is imperative that social distancing, good hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning regimes are adhered to, together with zero tolerance to COVID-19 symptoms. Any member of staff, child or young person who has:-

- ⇒ *a high temperature*
- ⇒ *a new, continuous cough*
- ⇒ *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*

should stay at home and arrange for [coronavirus testing](#) using the NHSinform website or by calling **0800 028 2816**

Anyone who :-

- ⇒ *is living with someone who has coronavirus symptoms should stay at home and follow the relevant advice;*
- ⇒ *has returned (or come) to Scotland from a country which is not exempt from the UK quarantine rules, should stay at home following the relevant guidance.*

Schools should remain vigilant to the symptoms, keeping track of the levels and reason for absences relative to normal absence rates, and monitoring in case of a positive test result. We also wanted to share with you our learning experiences from some of the positive and individual cases involving schools

Positive COVID-19 Cases - Learning Experiences

The importance of complying with Scottish Government guidance is paramount and adults must keep 2mtrs away from others, and if they cannot and are interacting face to face for a period of around 15 minutes then a face covering should be worn. However, in addition it is important to be aware that the Test and Protect assessment of those deemed in close contact with a confirmed case will ask about the following ;

- People who are within 1m and face to face with the case for any length of time
- People who are within 1m for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- People who are within 1-2m of the infected individual for any more than 15 mins cumulatively over a 48 hour period.

All staff are therefore advised to carefully consider their movements during the day, including:

- **Social distancing and the time spent in staff rooms, bases, or common areas;**
- **Limiting the time if there is a requirement to be near a child's desk to assist them with their work,**
- **Car sharing — current Transport Scotland advice says people should only travel with members of you're their own, or extended, household.**

Sanitiser Dispensers

Sanitiser dispensing units are located at the entrances and common areas within schools. Staff have told us they prefer automated dispensers and these are on order.

Spray Bottles/Anti Viral Wipes

All establishments will receive a new delivery of more spray bottles and white roll for use in classes and any other areas. It can be used on computers in ICT suites or offices as long as the cleaning solution is not sprayed directly onto keyboards or phones, but sprayed onto white roll and wiped down. It is envisaged that this will replace the need for wipes which is not environmentally stable in the long term.

Therefore, establishments should have recently received one further supply of wipes before moving to the spray bottle. This will allow secondary schools time to assess, test out and implement the practical change from wipe to spray within the classroom. Young people are still expected to be responsible for the wiping of their own desk.

A poster with instruction on use and information of the nature of the cleaning solution has been provided. This cleaning solution is the same as that used during the electrostatic spray clean; and daily cleaning regime appropriately diluted so as to be safe for general use. The action of wiping a surface with the solution will kill Covid-19 virus instantaneously.

High Touch Density Point Cleaning—Primary Schools

Janitorial duties have been changed to allow for the high density touch point cleaning which takes place 3 times a day (national guidance is twice per day). Extra time has been added to the start of the day to allow for the refilling of dispensers.



High density areas do not involve the classrooms where children will be using the same desks, movement will be restricted and all can hand wash regularly. High density touch points to be cleaned are defined as those around the common areas where there is the heaviest traffic such as the door handles and touch plates in corridors/entrances, handrails in stairwells and taps and flush mechanisms in toilets

Catering—Primary Schools

At lunchtime it is important to keep 'groups' together with a space in between and if possible to keep the same seats. Where packed lunches are taken, groups should also be maintained.

We have been asked about for the re-introduction of breakfast clubs. We are at this time enabling schools to settle in, ensuring safety measures are working effectively and making any adjustments as necessary. We are currently re-introducing out of school care organisations previously operating in our schools following all risk assessments, and thereafter will consider breakfast clubs.

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