



20 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you are all aware of yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister, informing us that in England we are moving towards allowing Plan B regulations to expire.

The Prime Minister announced that the government is no longer asking people to work from home and people should now speak to their employers about arrangements for returning to the office. He also set out the intention to remove measures requiring the use of face coverings in classrooms in secondary schools with effect from today, and in due course for measures requiring use of face coverings in communal spaces in all schools to be withdrawn.

In Manchester schools, although infection rates in secondary schools appear to be reducing, they are still increasing in our primary schools. Many of our schools are also continuing to struggle with staff absences.

Parents should be re-assured that it is still within the gift of school leaders to retain measures such as mask wearing in classrooms, promoting effective hygiene measures and improving ventilation and social distancing in specific areas etc, where the context warrants it.

These measures are important aspects of infection and prevention control where needed and facilitate schools remaining open to provide education on site.

Keeping schools open is a priority for everybody and as such I do hope that you will continue to support your school leaders with any decision, they make with regard to infection and prevention control in their setting.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight that vaccinations rates in Manchester are not as high as we would like them to be and as such, I would encourage you, to take up the offer of a vaccine where you or your child is eligible.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely,

David Regan
Director of Public Health

Amanda Corcoran
Director of Education