



Monday 29th November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Mitigations re C19 Omicron Variant

I am sure you will have heard the Chief Minister announce yesterday, that from Tuesday 30 November, all staff (primary, secondary and UCM), all secondary and UCM students and all visitors will be expected to wear face coverings in all of the Island's educational settings. This includes attendance at concerts, prize givings and after school events such as our upcoming Christmas Fairs.

Primary school children will not be expected to wear face coverings, though they can if they so wish, and DESC is encouraging that children in Year 5 and 6 do so.

Teaching and support staff will be pragmatic about the use of face-coverings, wearing them in communal areas and when moving around the building, but not necessarily when working in class with pupils. Face coverings play an important role in protecting others from any circulating winter illnesses, and will be most effective if everyone plays their part. We will ensure that face coverings are provided to anyone that does not have their own.

Once we have clarity around mandatory face-coverings on swimming buses, which are used in the public transport network, we will let parents know. Until that point we carry on as normal – but it may be worth providing your child with a covering to use tomorrow if your child's class is swimming.

We are reviewing our risk assessment and mitigation plan for our Christmas concerts and Christmas fairs. There is no expectation or requirement from Isle of Man Government that these types of events should be cancelled or stopped, but obviously we will do all we can to keep them as Covid-secure as possible. We will write again with details of our precautions in due course.

Our school risk assessment has been available for you to see on our school websites since the start of the academic year - we will continue with the mitigations as outlined in this document such as keeping windows open, encouraging frequent hand-washing and having hand-sanitizer stations available throughout the school.

Other Mitigations in place

- Our Federation continues to implement measures to support hands, face, space and fresh air.
- All staff are encouraged to continue to test for C19 at least twice a week using free lateral flow test kits and to 'know before you go', to protect themselves and others.
- Any children suffering from any C19 symptoms must not be sent into school. If in any doubt, children suffering from symptoms should be kept off school and you should seek advice from the 111 or arrange a PCR test online. Further details can be found on the Government Covid website at: <https://covid19.gov.im/about-coronavirus/symptoms-and-self-assessment/>

Ensuring our schools are as safe as possible for both our staff and students, as well as maintaining face-to-face learning to minimise the disruption caused to our students are still our key priorities but it must be emphasised that in order to do this we should all work together to keep C19 out of our educational settings and the community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and understanding. We know that these times are difficult, but we know that you will work with us in partnership to help our students understand and help us to implement the mitigations set out above.

Max Kelly
Executive Headteacher