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Education Service

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Dear parent/carers,

We are writing to provide you with an update on the arrangements which will be in place after the Easter holidays in relation to continuing to mitigate the risks of Coronavirus infections in schools and Early Childhood Centres (ECCs).

We also enclose a letter from Professor Jason Leitch who provides more context and detail around these changes.

You will be aware that we continue to have high levels of infections in our communities and that this has impacted on pupil attendance and staff absence across many schools and centres. We continue to follow the Reducing the Risks in Schools guidance at this time to minimise infection as far as possible.

After the Easter holidays, in line with national approaches for all aspects of public life, we will move to following Routine Measures guidance which will be kept under review by the Scottish Government. The guidance is clear that we are not recommended to return to previous practice that pre-dates the pandemic. Instead, it recommends some ongoing mitigations and enables the removal of a number of the measures that have been recommended for schools and ECCs up until this point.

We will continue to ask all schools and ECCs to have robust risk assessments in place to mitigate against Coronavirus infection and these will include measures such as improved hand hygiene, continued enhanced cleaning, improved ventilation and CO2 monitoring, use of face coverings for secondary pupils and staff in communal areas and for specific close working and PPE where required. All learners and staff will be supported to continue to wear face-coverings at any time, if they choose to do so.

We would also ask for your support in continuing to keep children and young people at home, if they are displaying possible symptoms of Coronavirus and to follow the current guidance for self-isolation. This is outlined in Professor Leitch's letter.

The letter from Professor Leitch also provides details of the changes to the testing programme from 18th of April. Until the Easter holidays, we do ask staff and secondary pupils to continue to test twice weekly.

While we are no longer reporting on every single case linked to schools/ECCs. We will continue to ask schools and ECCs to monitor possible outbreaks in their settings and we will liaise with Public Health on these. Head Teachers and Heads of Centre will keep this under review and dynamically risk assess any additional, temporary measures which may be required in their own setting.

I hope that this information is helpful to you and would like to thank you for your ongoing support to your child's school/ECC.

We will be in touch again after the Easter break with further information as the changes are implemented.

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