

Professor Steven Broomhead Chief Executive

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Dear Headteacher

The Prime Minister has announced that from the 17th May 2021 pupils in secondary schools will no longer be required to wear face coverings in the classroom or communal areas.

Due to Warrington currently experiencing the lowest rates since the start of the pandemic we are happy to confirm that we are supportive of this position at this time. If students and staff want to carry on wearing face coverings within the education setting they should be encouraged not discouraged from doing so. This advice will continue to be reviewed fortnightly and may change should there be an increase in rates across the area, as we are seeing in other parts of the North West. Alongside this, local advice to reintroduce face coverings may be provided to individual settings or the Town as a whole by the Director of Public Health in response to geographical or setting based outbreaks.

The guidance continues to advise staff and visitors to wear face coverings when in communal areas of all school settings. Pupils and staff should also continue to wear face coverings when travelling on public and school transport. We are also supportive of continuing to advise parents to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up their children outside school due to ongoing concerns about the inability to socially distance in some areas.

**Yours Faithfully** 

Thara Raj Director of Public Health

Paula Worthington Director, Education, Early Help & SEND