

5th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday afternoon, the DfE published guidance on what the new national restrictions mean for schools, colleges and other education settings. The full guidance can be found [\[here\]](#).

Although the DfE were extraordinarily late in terms of publishing this guidance, leeway has been given for settings to make the required changes **between now and Monday 9th November**, rather than necessarily by today when the new national restrictions came into force.

The key points are as follows:

Face coverings

- Face coverings will be mandatory in communal areas of secondary schools and colleges. They will still not be recommended in classrooms.
- In primary schools, the use of face coverings in communal areas will remain at the discretion of individual schools.
- Face coverings will be mandatory for pupils in Year 7 and over on dedicated school transport.

Clinically extremely vulnerable staff and pupils

- Both staff and pupils who have been identified by their doctor as still being considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), will be advised not to come into school or college. The [government guidance](#) on shielding and CEV people has been updated to reflect this position. Schools will be expected to provide remote learning for any pupils in this category.
- Pupils and staff who live with people who are CEV, but are not CEV themselves, are still expected to come into school.
- Pupils and staff who are classified as clinically vulnerable (CV) or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), may continue to attend school in line with current guidance.

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Curricular and extra-curricular activities

- PE, sport, music, dance and drama lessons can continue in line with the current guidance – during school time.
- Schools must only provide team sports listed on the [return to recreational team sport framework](#). Competition between different schools or colleges should not take place.
- Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so.
- After-school clubs can only continue if their primary purpose is childcare. For example, wrap around care in a primary school would be fine, but a Year 8 after-school football club would not.
- The current series of exam resits should continue.
- For 16 to 19 study programmes (e.g. sixth form), schools and colleges should continue to seek to deliver the majority of education on site unless they have had written public health advice to move some groups to remote teaching.

Currently, it is unclear as to whether face-to-face after school intervention sessions need to cease. We hope to receive clarification on this matter by the end of the day and will inform students who may be directly impacted.

Please also be aware that most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable during the first lockdown are no longer identified as such. Parents and carers should speak to their GP or specialist clinician, as soon as possible, if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

If you have been informed that your child is **clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)** and that, as a result, they will be shielding until further notice then please contact **Mrs Bashford-Hynes** at ehynes@vynersschool.org.uk.

Please note that all other students (unless they have been requested to self-isolate) are expected to attend school as they would normally. However, if you do have any concerns then please do not hesitate to contact **Mrs Bashford-Hynes** at the school.

We will ensure that all appropriate measures and adjustments are made by the end of the day today. These measures will remain in place until further notice.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Gary Mullings
Headteacher