

Our Ref JK/PAs  
Your Ref  
Date 13 May 2021  
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Department for Children and  
Young People

Parents /Carers of children and young people  
in Bury schools

Julien Kramer  
Interim Assistant Director  
(Education and Inclusion)

Dear Parent/Carer

## **COVID-19 UPDATE: LOCAL GUIDANCE**

Thank you for your ongoing support during the on-going pandemic by continuing to follow the latest government guidance.

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced changes linked to England's progress along the roadmap out of lockdown. This included the intention to relax measures for the use of face coverings in schools from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The exception to this is for those areas where there are local outbreaks.

In our locality and in neighbouring areas there are cases of a variant of SARS-CoV2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). This variant is spreading quickly in nearby areas and has contributed to numbers of people with COVID-19 in some areas almost doubling in a week.

Following discussions at the Health Protection Board and with Bury's local Director of Public Health, Bury Council is asking schools to retain the use of face coverings, as per the current arrangements, until further notice. There have been instances where young people attending school or college have contributed to the spread of the more infectious variant. We believe it would be irresponsible to wait until we have high levels of the newer variants of SARS-CoV2 circulating in Bury before we act.

We have made significant progress in reducing cases of COVID-19, there is a risk that this progress is undermined by the spread of this more infectious variant. Widespread transmission of this variant would risk slowing down or reversing the progress we have made towards removing restrictions on meeting family and friends and reopening businesses. I am sure that you will understand the need for caution at this time.

We will continue to keep the situation under review and will inform schools as soon as our local guidance changes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Julien Kramer**  
**Interim Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion**

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