

DUDLEY ACADEMIES TRUST

COVID-19 RESPONSE

ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN (SECONDARY)



Date: 14/05/21
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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As you will be aware, the next stage of the government's roadmap out of lockdown comes into effect across England on Monday 17th May. It is wonderful that we can look towards another big step forward with the ability to meet family and friends indoors, visit a restaurant in addition, possibly start to think about a holiday abroad. A summary of the forthcoming changes is available [here](#).

Throughout the pandemic the Trust has taken a cautious approach to help limit the risk of transmission across our academies, always putting the wellbeing of learners and staff first.

After careful consideration of the impending specific changes to the information on face coverings in education (and taking in to account the positive cases we have recently seen across two of our academies); the Trust considers that complete withdrawal of facemasks for staff in our academies is not the right step to take, at this time.

Without doubt, we all want a return to facemask-free schools. However bearing in mind that face coverings are still required in shops and on public transport, we believe it is vitally important that we begin our withdrawal of such safety measures with extreme caution, in order to protect the safety and health of learners and staff.

In view of the above, the following safety precautions will apply from **Monday 17th May**:

- There is no longer any expectation for learners and staff to wear face coverings **in classrooms** (unless the Principal determines this is necessary for certain bubbles).
- Learners, staff and visitors should continue to wear face coverings **outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible** (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
- The requirement for **home testing twice per week** remains in place and any positive cases should still be reported to the academy (this remains voluntary).
- The same arrangements remain for **anyone with symptoms**, who should not attend the academy and **obtain COVID-19 test**.

Note: The reintroduction of face coverings for learners and staff in classrooms may be advised for a temporary period, in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.

After May half term, to help address capacity constraints and subject to prior approval from Jo Higgins, Chief Executive and Rebecca Meacham, Compliance & Safeguarding Officer,

Principals will have the option to consider removing the year group bubbles, which would enable teachers to return to being based in their own classrooms.

The Trust agrees that from **week commencing 7th June**, Principals will have the discretion to implement this change, if it is appropriate for their particular circumstances.

The next stage of the roadmap comes into effect **no earlier than 21st June**. After which we expect most things to be back to pre COVID-19 arrangements. Further information will be confirmed as we receive updated guidance nearer the time.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Please ensure all learners, parents/carers and staff are aware of the changes coming into effect next week and continue to follow all of the remaining guidance in relation to social distancing, hand washing and keeping yourself safe.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Meacham, Compliance & Safeguarding Officer at (rebecca.meacham@dudeycol.ac.uk).