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Dear Headteacher

Previously we wrote to you to advise that all secondary schools and colleges in Tameside should consider to advise pupils and staff to continue to wear face coverings in school, as they can reduce COVID-19 transmission. Since then, you will be aware of the increase of the 'Delta' Variant of Concern (previously referred to as the variant first detected in India) and the increase in case rates across Greater Manchester, and now in Tameside.

As a result of the deteriorating situation, I recommend the continued use of face coverings for all pupils and staff in school until the end of the school term, as part of your robust system of control of covid-19 transmission. This measure is particularly recommended for areas where social distancing may be difficult, such as all communal areas.

Consideration of promoting the wearing of face coverings is only one part of your larger system of controls. Other measures, including social distancing, staff vaccination (for those eligible), handwashing, regular and symptomatic testing, contact tracing, self-isolation, good ventilation and enhanced cleaning remain essential. Support on any of these matters continues to be available from your public health and education teams.

Kind Regards



Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy
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