



Ein cyf/Our ref:

To: FE Principals

9 July 2021

Dear Principal

Before you embark on a well-earned break this summer, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all your hard work and effort over the last academic year. I hope the break will offer you, and your teams, a chance to look back over the last year with immense pride – you have shown immeasurable determination and resilience in supporting learning and keeping education settings as Covid-secure as possible. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

By the end of September everyone working in our education system will have been offered both vaccinations, providing greater protection for our education workforce. I continue to encourage anyone who has not yet received their vaccine to take up this offer.

We will publish *The Local Covid-19 Infection Control Decision Framework*, which will be available from the start of the autumn term, for you to embed into your operations during the weeks that follow. Supported by public health officials, the framework will enable learning providers to tailor some of the interventions to reflect the level of risk identified locally, to ensure measures are appropriate to your circumstances.

In the meantime I want to be as clear as I can be at this time about the basis on which you should currently plan for September to limit the disruption to you and your learners:

- Face coverings will no longer be routinely recommended in classrooms/workshops;
- Contact groups will no longer be recommended in schools or for full-time learners in Further Education (FE) and traineeship programmes, and instead, we will use our TTP system to identify close contacts of learners who have tested positive. My officials will work with you over the coming weeks to develop detailed guidance for how this process will work;
- We have already confirmed that adult and part-time learning will no longer need to be delivered on a socially distanced basis. This provision will instead, move to a contact group model from September;
- Colleges can plan for sporting activities including team sports and fixtures to take place from the autumn.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

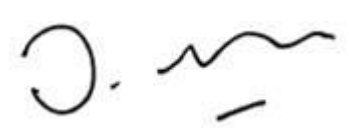
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

You will have already seen a copy of the draft operational guidance, which has been updated to reflect these changes for the start of the autumn term. The final guidance will be published next week, and can be used as a planning tool for September.

There may be a need to issue further updates in the event of any significant developments during the summer holiday period, but my officials will keep you updated on any key changes. In these circumstances, we will continue to work closely with you and trade unions, to consider how best to provide you with the time required to make any necessary adjustments to mitigations at the start of term.

I would like to end by once again repeating my thanks to you for your immense hard work over the most challenging of times. We went into this pandemic together, we will come out of it together, stronger.

Diolch o galon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language