

PREPARING FOR THE FULL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

Risk assessments should be **completed and shared prior to 8th March 2021**. As a minimum, ensure the risk assessment includes and addresses all the following areas in relation to protecting you from Covid 19

- Social Distancing and how movements around the school will happen.
- Bubbles/Groups- how they will operate.
- The use of face coverings & what PPE is required and supplied.
- Ventilation
- Enhanced cleaning regimes

Challenging behaviours and different pupil needs can alter the level of risk to staff. Such factors can be considered as part of an **individual risk assessment** and PPE provided where necessary.

You have a right to see the risk assessments and you have a right to challenge the risk assessments, if you feel they are not safe or accurate. Once **risk assessments** are completed, they should be regularly **reviewed** and **updated** and most importantly they should be **adhered to**.

It is important to recognise the difference between face coverings and face masks.

Face Coverings- supplied by individuals for personal use and they **do not protect** the wearer. Face Coverings are not PPE and their use is to protect those around you.

Face Masks- supplied by the Employer as PPE and designed to protect the wearer. The type of face mask required will be determined on the risk assessment and be dependent on the level of risk.

If you are working where it is **not possible to maintain social distancing** and **face coverings are not being worn**, you **may require a face mask to protect you** and this activity should be risk assessed and the need for PPE considered.

Lateral Flow Tests are a positive move forward, but we need to be mindful of their limitations i.e. accuracy and effectiveness and **not allow negative tests to lead to complacency and reduced adherence to control measures** such as social distancing, regular hand washing and face coverings.

All previous updates and guidance for schools-based members, including template letters and information on ventilation, risk assessments and Lateral Flow Tests, are available on the GMB London website

www.gmblondon.org.uk/workplace.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Workplace Rep, Local Branch, Regional Organiser or schoolsteamlondon@gmb.org.uk.

