

# Covid-19 Briefing

## Briefing for Pupils, Parents & Carers

1<sup>st</sup> October 2020



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Education, Skills & Children's Services

DMD40149

## Covid-19 Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Self-Isolate and request a test

**Call: 01851 601151**

[www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

[www.coronavirus.wi.nhs.scot](http://www.coronavirus.wi.nhs.scot)

### Update: Uist Schools

Following the recent confirmations of positive Covid-19 cases in the South Uist & Eriskay area, a precautionary decision was made to close all the schools in Uist and Benbecula on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week to allow the Comhairle to work with NHS Public Health staff to review the circumstances of the reported cases.

Working with NHS Western Isles, we can confirm that contact-tracing measures have been fully deployed and any contacts linked to positive cases are being traced and are isolating. These measures have affected staff and pupils in the South Uist & Eriskay areas.

Having reviewed the situation, the Comhairle has agreed that the following schools will re-open as normal from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

- Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath
- Balivanich School & Nursery
- Lochdar School & Nursery

The following schools will remain closed to regular attendance until the October holidays.

- Lionacleit School
- Daliburgh School & Nursery

Pupils from Lionacleit and Daliburgh will be supported to move to online learning with access to remote live teaching from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, for the remainder of the term.

To support key workers, a childcare hub will operate at each of the two schools for their own eligible pupils. Any parents or carers that are key workers in need of childcare to allow them to continue to work should contact their school office in the first instance.

- Lionacleit School – 01870 603690
- Daliburgh School – 01878 700276

We would reassure parents and carers that we have worked during the closure days to ensure that all the schools in the area have been deep cleaned and fully prepared, with risk assessments reviewed, for the safe return of pupils and staff.

**We will make every effort to provide learning at home for any pupils requiring to self-isolate on advice. We will be unable, however, to provide home learning materials for pupils being kept at home on a precautionary basis without formal advice to isolate.**

## Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

<b>F</b>	Face coverings	
<b>A</b>	Avoid crowded places	
<b>C</b>	Clean your hands regularly	
<b>T</b>	Two metre distance	
<b>S</b>	Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms	

[nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)  
#WeAreScotland



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### Safety & Hygiene Measures

With the news of recent confirmed Covid-19 cases in the Western Isles, all Comhairle schools have fully reviewed their risk assessments to ensure that all required measures are being taken to reduce the risk of virus spread within school.

Since first re-opening in August, all schools have had robust and detailed risk assessments in place and they include measures to be taken in the event of virus outbreak.

The review of risk assessments was undertaken this week to ensure that all schools are continuing to maintain best practice in safety and hygiene and all measures required continue to be in place.

Our schools continue to be carefully controlled environments that offer the safest possible settings for pupils and staff.

### Reducing Risk of Infection

A particular focus of the review of school risk assessments were measures that specifically control the risk of spread of infection and reduce the impact of contact tracing.

- Continued robust hand hygiene arrangements for all building users
- Regular and frequent building cleaning, including deep-cleans, as required.
- The use of consistent pupil bubbles in classes and communal/playground areas
- Regular seating plans in classes, where possible.
- Maintenance of staff physical distancing, where possible, and use of face coverings where otherwise required.
- Minimisation of the use of any shared equipment or resources with cleaning routines in place between uses.
- The continued strict restriction on non-essential visitors to school buildings
- High compliance with the wearing of masks on school buses and in secondary schools.

### Face Coverings & Mask Hygiene

Since the introduction of the mandatory wearing of face coverings in secondary schools on 31st August, we have seen very high levels of compliance in Western Isles schools.

We ask for the continued co-operation of pupils and parents to make sure that the wearing of face coverings remains consistent and that masks are fitted properly, in line with current advice.

To maintain good hygiene, it is important that reusable masks are regularly and frequently cleaned. They should never be shared and soiled or damaged masks should be disposed of responsibly.

**Cùm thu fhèin agus daoine eile slàn**

- Còmhdachan-aodainn
- Seachain àiteachan dòmhail
- Glan do làmhan gu cunbhalach
- Astar dà mheatair
- Cùm air leth agus cuir deuchainn air dòigh ma tha comharraidhean ort

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Healthier Scotland  
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CORONA-BHÌORAS  
CÙM SLÀN  
DÌON DAOINE  
EILE SÀBHAIL  
BEATHANNAN

NHS  
SCOTLAND

### School Transport Update

There are three important updates in relation to school transport:

#### Support from Parents to Transport Pupils

We need to continue to seek your help...

Due to the on-going need to reduce demand on school bus transport, we ask for the continued support of parents to help with transporting pupils to

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and from school after the October holidays in the same way as was arranged for the first term. This will be reviewed again in November

Where parents were eligible for financial support to undertake this transport, this will continue to be available.

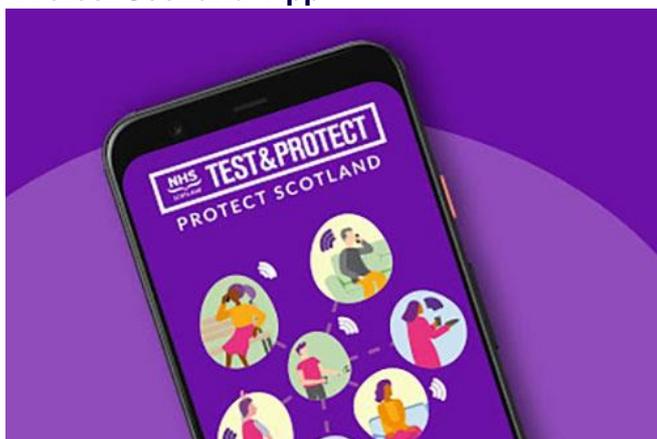
### Compliance with the Wearing of Face Coverings

We have seen a very high level of compliance with the requirement for all pupils to wear face coverings on school transport. As time passes, good practices can become relaxed and we ask for the support of parents to continue to reinforce the importance of wearing face coverings on buses for the whole of the journey. They should not be removed once seated.

### Boarding the Correct Bus

There have been some issues reported to the Comhairle of pupils boarding and travelling on buses other than the one allocated on the bus pass. Whilst we appreciate that, in some locations, several buses pass the same stop, it's very important for seating capacity and maintenance of distancing that pupils only board the bus identified on their bus pass.

### 'Protect Scotland' App



We would encourage all parents and young people with suitable phone handsets to download the 'Protect Scotland' Test & Protect app. It is proving to be a very good tool to support contact tracing following a positive case of Covid-19.

The app is available in both the Apple and Android app stores and should be compatible with most phone handsets produced since 2015.

### Keeping Schools Safe

We understand that many parents and families will be anxious about school buildings now that there are confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Western Isles, but we would like to provide the fullest reassurances that our schools have robust risk assessments in place and are complying with all national and local requirements to keep them as safe as possible for pupils and staff.

If any parents or pupils have concerns about any aspect of school operations or safety arrangements, please contact the head teacher in the first instance and we will be happy to provide further information and advice.

### Covid-19 Symptoms

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (37.8°C or higher)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you believe that any member of your household is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 described above, you must act promptly.

- **Self-Isolate:** All members of the household must immediately self-isolate. Children in the household must not be sent to school or nursery.
- **Ask for a Test:** All members of the household with symptoms should be referred for a Covid-19 test. Telephone 01851 601151 or [click here](#)
- **Inform:** Ensure that you promptly notify employers and any schools or nurseries that your household is self-isolating and awaiting testing.

**Call: 01851 601151**