

7 December 2021

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To Directors of Public Health

Dear Colleague

You will be aware that the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance and contingency framework for schools, colleges and other education settings gives authority to local Directors of Public Health to require additional mitigations to be implemented in schools in response to the Coronavirus and in order to help protect the health of pupils, staff and the public.

The NASUWT remains concerned that as daily case numbers continue to remain very high, and in light of the identification of the Omicron variant of concern, there will be a need for swift and decisive action to protect public health and to avoid avoidable disruption to pupils' education during the remainder of this term and when schools reopen following the Christmas break.

The NASUWT requests that all Directors of Public Health should adopt a precautionary approach in the current circumstances. Stronger mitigations, including extending the requirement for the wearing of face coverings in classroom areas, more stringent close contact self-isolation rules, and a more effective regime for COVID-19 testing could, in our view, help significantly to prevent a further damaging surge in COVID-19 infections and help to protect the provision of onsite education for children and young people in your area.

The NASUWT appreciates your efforts in supporting the work of school leaders and teachers during the course of the pandemic and welcomes your continued action to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the school and college community at this critical time.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary