



Date: 27/08/2021

SCHOOLS WORKFORCE BULLETIN

As we come to the end of the summer holidays GMB hopes everyone enjoyed your hard earned break from school and you are feeling refreshed and ready to go back.

Unfortunately the Government has chosen to remove most requirements for safety measures in schools, a decision which GMB think is risky and we are concerned this decision could lead to an increase in Covid-19 cases in schools especially as currently new cases of Covid are running at over 30,000 a day on a consistent basis and we know that in Scotland cases have been surging since their schools returned on the 17th August.

We acknowledge that the situation has changed because of the implementation of the vaccination programme. However, rates of Covid-19 infection in the wider community are higher than this time last year, and many pupils won't have been vaccinated so effective safety measure will still need to be in place to try and minimise transmission.

Once again your schools Risk Assessment will need to be reviewed and updated and GMB Members and reps should be consulted on the new risk assessment. As a minimum, ensure the risk assessment includes and addresses the following areas in relation to protecting you from Covid 19:

- Ventilation (Should be a priority control measure)
- Hygiene (Hand & Respiratory hygiene and PPE where applicable)
- Testing (taking of & result reporting/recording of for all staff/pupils)
- Cleaning Personal/Equipment (regular e.g. twice daily of areas/equipment)

GMB has sent updated joint guidance to every School Head in England and you can access this guidance on at gmb.org.uk/all-schools-staff-noticeboard.

If you are able could you please print this off & take into your school for colleagues that are not in GMB and if any colleagues are not in GMB tell them they need to be and they can join GMB online at gmb.org.uk/join.

Finally If you would like GMB to visit your school to update you on the pay offer and our upcoming Right Pay for the Right Job campaign please contact your Regional GMB office and we will arrange a date to come into your school.