



To: All Members of Sandy Town Council
CBC Ward Members for Sandy
Employees of Sandy Town Council

From: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Sandy

Date: 4th August 2021

Subject Full Council Meeting of 9th August 2021

With effect from Monday 19th July 2021 the law that had made the wearing of face masks compulsory in most settings was lifted. However, as a public body and employer we should be mindful of the large number of new daily cases, the continuing hospitalisations and sadly the deaths linked to Covid19. This is further highlighted by the recent correspondence received from the director of public health for our area, attached for your information.

Following this change to the law government's published guidance based upon medical and scientific advice is that, *"To help reduce the spread of Covid-19, wearing a face covering will reduce your risk and the risk to others, where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces."*

The advice goes on to say that, *"face coverings do more to protect those around you than they do for the wearer. Therefore, even if you've been vaccinated and don't consider yourself vulnerable you should always consider those around you when deciding whether to wear a mask."*

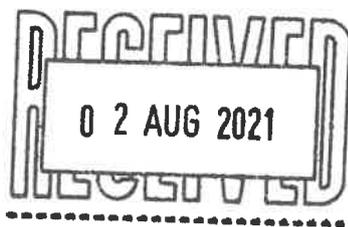
The Clerk has carried out the necessary risk assessments and will set the guidance related to that assessment separately. However, it is quite clear that if we are to function effectively and safely during this present period it is going to require a great deal of support and mutual co-operation from everyone involved; we all need to recognise, respect and understand the concerns of councillors and members of our community and that we cannot transition immediately back to how things were pre Covid.

There were 11 persons present at the meeting of the Policy, Finance & Resources meeting on 26th July; there could well be double that number at this meeting of the Council and almost as many for the Development Scrutiny meeting that proceeds it. Efforts to identify a suitable alternative venue for one or both of these meetings in which safe and realistic social distancing might be possible has proved unsuccessful.

Therefore, it is our hope that all those attending the meetings on Monday 9th August demonstrate a Thoughtful, Considerate and Respectful attitude to one another by wearing an effective face covering throughout. Thank you for your support and co-operation in this matter.

Cllr Martin Pettitt, Mayor

Cllr Joanna Hewitt, Deputy Mayor



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THE MANAGER / OCCUPIER
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28 July 2021

COVID-19 safety in workplaces from 19th July 2021 An important message from Vicky Head, Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire

Dear Manager

On 19th July, the Government moved to step 4 of its road map. Many of the legal restrictions have been lifted, however we are still feeling the impact of COVID infections and I am writing to ask you to continue to be cautious.

We are seeing a growing number of COVID-19 cases in Central Bedfordshire, with pressure on the hospital starting to increase. Cases are concentrated in young adults who can develop long Covid, resulting in significant symptoms and disability for weeks or even months. Many employees are also needing to self-isolate having been in close contact with a case, and this is putting pressure on many workplaces.

There are things you can do to help break chains of transmission and reduce numbers of cases in our community.

Continue to follow Government guidance on working safely during COVID-19 (www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19). This includes:

- continuing to ask employees to wear face coverings
- maintaining social distancing when possible
- encouraging regular handwashing
- ensuring the workplace is well ventilated
- maintaining enhanced cleaning regimes
- encouraging people to work from home where possible

Continue to collect contact details for all customers, visitors and staff or ask that people use the NHS app to scan into your venue. The guidance is set out here: Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Encourage staff to test using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) twice a week if they have no symptoms and to report their results whether positive or negative

Online. Tests are freely available. Please visit www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site.

Tell us if you have more than 3 confirmed COVID-19 cases at your workplace over a 14 day period by completing this online form or emailing Public.Health@bedford.gov.uk. We can give advice and help arrange appropriate testing for your staff.

Encourage employees to be vigilant for symptoms and to stay away from work and book a PCR test if COVID-19 is suspected. Please note some people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, symptoms that resemble a cold or no symptoms at all. PCR tests can be booked at nhs.uk/coronavirus or via 119.

Ensure all employees who are 'pinged' by the NHS COVID App or who are contacted by NHS Test and Trace isolate as instructed. Please note that some named employees in critical sectors may be exempt from isolation. See www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance for information on which sectors are eligible, and how to apply for an exemption. The Government has also announced that daily contact testing will be rolled out to critical workplaces in the food supply chain so that contacts who would otherwise be self-isolating can instead take daily tests: www.gov.uk/government/news/food-industry-covid-testing-rolled-out-to-support-sector.

Please do encourage all staff to get vaccinated. A toolkit to help you promote vaccination is here coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/employer-toolkit/



Employees can book slots online via the NHS Booking system or by calling 119. Drop in sessions are also available locally, including at Watling House, Dunstable. Full details about locations and opening times are available online. Please support your staff to receive two vaccination doses in order to get a good level of protection against the Delta variant, which is circulating at present.

Controlling the spread of COVID-19 is still important for your business and the community. Despite the vaccination programme, with cases rising the NHS could still see a significant surge in admissions.

The pandemic continues to be challenging for many reasons. We have funded free sessions to help managers and staff cope with the transition back to work. These sessions are bookable by emailing training@mind-blmk.org.uk. There are also short videos on this topic at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/free-MH-training

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Vicky Head

Director of Public Health
Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Council

