**All pupils and teachers at secondary schools in England must wear face masks to help slow the spread of coronavirus.**

It is part of new government rules which says that face coverings should be worn by staff and students in year 7 and above in communal spaces - outside of classrooms - and on school transport from Thursday 5th November.

This was already the case in areas where the local alert level was 'high' and 'very high'. These levels have now been replaced by a [**second national lockdown**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54768410)which will apply to everyone in England.

Children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities might be able to not wear a mask, depending on their need.

[**England lockdown: How is it different to the first one?**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54778241)

[**Coronavirus: Your questions about England's new lockdown**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54781307)

[**How to stay active during lockdown 2**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54797837)

**What are the new rules in England?**

The new guidance, issued by the Department for Education on Wednesday afternoon, says "face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 and above when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained", and the same applies to further education colleges.

Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the NAHT school leaders' union, criticised the move and said the lockdown was announced four days ago but schools "have had to wait until now to find out how it affects them".

He went on to say that "it is ridiculous that this new guidance has landed on school leaders' desks less than 24 hours before the start of the national lockdown.

"There is very little in the guidance that could not have been communicated with schools 72 hours ago."

The government has said that schools should put the new guidelines in place as soon as possible but have until Monday 9 November if needed.

In August, the prime minister Boris Johnson went back on his decision that children in England should not wear face masks in secondary school.

Face coverings were made mandatory in communal areas and corridors for children in towns and cities that were subject to stricter coronavirus restrictions.

Outside those areas, it was up to the head teacher to decide.