

15 October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Guardians,

I wanted to make you aware of recommendations recently issued by the local Director of Public Health to help further reduce transmission of Covid-19 in schools and reduce the disruption and impact on learning caused by cases within schools for all our children and young people.

Covid-19 cases in our region are still too high, particularly cases in children and this is affecting schools. There are also outbreaks of other infections that are causing school disruptions e.g. influenza and norovirus, so being extra vigilant will help reduce the impact to learning.

As you will be aware, we are working closely with public health who provide advice and support on the management of any Covid cases in our schools. This support aims to enable schools to run as normally as possible, although some additional measures are likely to be required for a short time to help limit spread if a school sees increasing numbers of cases. These could include testing, face coverings and limiting some non-essential gatherings, events and activities.

Your school will already be keeping you informed about any additional measures they are taking.

However, there is now an additional measure Public Health would like me to make you aware of which relates to children who are household contacts of positive cases. Public Health are now strongly advising that:

- Children who are household contacts of a confirmed case (PCR positive) should undertake a PCR test, with or without symptoms, and remain home until a negative PCR is returned;
- If the PCR result is negative then children can return to school;
- Children who are household contacts are also strongly recommended to have a further PCR test after 4 or 5 days as a precaution to check they have not become infected. They can continue to attend the setting when waiting on the second PCR result.

I recognise that this advice is in addition to the current national guidance and any parents, guardians or carers who still want their child to attend school have the right to send them into the setting.

Yours sincerely,

*Jon Lovatt*

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