

22nd October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are once again seeing worryingly high levels of COVID infections in Liverpool, with highest numbers in school children. The impact of COVID is a risk to everyone. Rising infections will mean more children becoming ill, needing to isolate from their friends, disruption to learning and more strict measures being re-introduced next term in schools.

We wanted to thank you for your support but also urge you to act now. Help us keep your child safe, in school with their friends next term and reduce the future impact of COVID on their lives by taking a few simple steps now.

No measure is perfect and we are recommending a few carefully selected measures, which we feel will have minimal impact on education and are effective at reducing risk of transmission – but for these to work everyone has to play their part now.

Face coverings are recommended for pupils, staff and parents/carers in communal areas in school from next term, but not in classrooms. We also ask that face coverings are worn at pick up and drop off from school, exemptions apply. As we enter winter, the rising levels of cases means this step has become necessary. When you cannot socially distance indoors or in a crowded place wearing a face covering is the most effective way to reduce your risk of infection or spreading the virus.

Even for young people, vaccination is our first line of defence against COVID. By vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds, we hope to limit transmission of COVID, but this will only happen if enough children in each school and class are vaccinated. Consented vaccinations for this age group are scheduled at schools now and until December – you're school will let you know when.

Even if you haven't been testing before, now is the time to start. It is essential that you and your child still use twice-weekly lateral flow tests and report the results (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>) and when positive let your school know. Continued regular testing over half term will help reduce the risk of infections when returning to school.

Stay COVID safe. A few additional steps will help reduce your risk of infection, keep washing your hands or using alcohol gel, socialise outdoors and when inside ventilate the room. If you develop COVID symptoms, it is essential to isolate immediately, get a PCR test as soon as possible and let the school know.

We wish you all a COVID safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours Sincerely

Matt Ashton

Director of Public Health

Steve Reddy

Director of Children's Services