



Derby City Council

Team Public Health  
Contact Robyn Dewis  
Our ref RD/NO

Date 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Head Teachers,

Thank you for everything that you have done this term to work with us on managing the COVID situation, and in maintaining as many children as possible in face-to-face education. We know that this has been incredibly challenging, but we also know that this is not yet over.

In Derby the numbers of COVID cases are again on the rise, before we see the impact of Omicron, and the highest rates are in school aged children. In the last two weeks we have seen 45 schools have more than 5 cases, and school aged children have accounted for over 600 cases of COVID during this time. As Omicron takes hold, we expect to see these numbers increase.

There is no doubt that we are continuing to see an ongoing outbreak within our population of school aged children, and I know that many of you have been working with the team to take action to reduce spread.

We have had a number of enquiries from schools regarding plans for the end of term, as this is so close to Christmas. I know that many of you are concerned about the implications for families and staff at this time, particularly as we are starting to see rapid spread from Omicron in some parts of the Country.

Some schools are considering moving to online/ virtual learning, combined with utilising INSET days, after Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. If you believe that, given the current COVID situation, this is an appropriate response for your school, you have our full support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Dewis'.

Dr Robyn Dewis  
Director of Public Health

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