



Derby City Council

Team Public Health  
Contact Dr Robyn Dewis  
Our ref RD / NO211018

Date 18 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are still seeing a high number of COVID cases in the City, over 1000 each week. Many of our cases are school aged children, and we are now seeing rising cases in adults and older people. We are also seeing an increase in other infections and expect flu to begin in the next few weeks.

At this point in the pandemic, it is my opinion that, it is time to take extra actions to reduce spread within schools, to reduce the number of children off school and to protect our City.

I have written to Head Teachers with additional actions they can use in their schools, but also need to ask for your help to reduce spread. I hope that by working together we can keep our children in school over the winter.

### **School Based Advice**

I have asked schools to:

- Increase ventilation inside and to be outside as much as possible
- Remember handwashing
- Consider how groups can mix less in school
- Consider visitors to the school and how to reduce groups sizes or move events online. Parents will be asked to wear a face covering if they visit inside.
- Remind everyone that those with symptoms need to stay at home and take a PCR test. Children should not return to school before the result comes back and teachers may ask to see the result.
- Remind everyone who is positive for COVID that they need to isolate at home
- Identify any contacts of positive cases and advise them/ their parents they should be taking a PCR test

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**People Services, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS**

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## **Parental Advice**

- Please use the home testing/ lateral flow kits twice a week. These tests are to use regularly when you do not have any symptoms. We ask that they are used by families of school children and secondary school children. Primary school aged children can use them if they are able to.
- Please remind your child to wear a face covering (if they are able) if they travel on the bus to school, and wear one yourself if you need to gather with others when you collect your child.
- If your child has COVID symptoms (a new cough, a temperature or loss of taste/smell) please keep them at home and arrange a PCR test.
- If your child has a positive PCR test, please keep your child at home and follow the advice you are given.
- If your child is identified as a contact (either by Test and Trace or by school), please arrange a PCR test- there is no need to isolate if they do not have symptoms, but you are advised to avoid people who are vulnerable.
- However, if someone in your household has COVID we ask that you keep your child/ children at home until they have had a PCR test and received a result. If the test is negative, and your child can, we suggest daily lateral flow testing for a further seven days as they return to school. Please do not take your child to out of school activities during the time you are waiting for your PCR result.
- If your child has exams or other important events this term, please consider reducing their out of school contacts in the 10 days before. This will reduce their risk of catching COVID and avoid them missing these important events.

If your child has special educational needs and testing is not possible please discuss this with your school. Any child who has received a positive PCR test does not need to test again, unless they develop new symptoms, for 90 days as they should have a good level of protection against the virus.

Finally, all school children will be offered the flu vaccine over coming weeks. Please read the information provided and ask any questions of the School Aged Immunisation Team- Repton Health Centre 01283 707178, DCHST.immunisationteam@nhs.net. The vaccinations are very important to help us to keep children well and in school this autumn.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Robyn Dewis', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Dr Robyn Dewis

Director of Public Health