



14 December 2021

Dear parent/carer,

We wanted to write to let you know that we continue to take every measure to make sure our schools are as safe as possible, and as a city we continue to share learning and good practice across all schools. We are keen to ensure that we can continue to keep schools open, and children and young people engaged in onsite learning.

The infection rate in Coventry is currently 393 people with the virus for every 100,000 of the population and we are expecting this to increase as the omicron variant takes more hold both locally and nationally.

You will no doubt be aware that there is new national guidance in relation to close contacts of a positive Covid 19 case. This now means that double vaccinated adults and under 18s do not need to isolate, and instead take a lateral flow test every day for the 7 days following contact. For information regarding access to lateral flow tests see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

In addition, we are strongly recommending that all close contacts take a PCR test and do not attend their education setting whilst they await their result. This is an interim measure that is being advised in the last few days of the Christmas term to minimise transmission in schools. Please book PCR tests online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Should the PCR (or any lateral flow testing) yield a positive result, we would ask that your child isolate and follow national "Stay at Home" guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Lateral flow testing (LFT) continues to be an important tool in managing infection rates and reducing transmission on an ongoing basis. It is helpful in identifying asymptomatic cases, and therefore reducing transmission and the overall number of children and young people that may test positive.

It is already in place for secondary age pupils, and this will include an onsite test on their return to school. There is currently no national recommendation for primary-age pupils to have a regular LFT. You will be aware, however, that we locally recommended all parents and carers of children attending a primary school to also regularly test and this can be accessed through community sites or home testing kits (see link above).

We are unclear whether there will be further changes to national guidance prior to schools returning in January, but we will work with schools to ensure that parents and carers are kept informed, and that we manage a safe return to school after Christmas.

If you would like any more help and advice around COVID-19, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Thank you for your ongoing support, we hope you manage to get a rest over the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,



Kirston Nelson
Director of Education & Skills



Liz Gaulton
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing