

5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

### **Safe return to school**

We are sure you share our relief that all children and young people will be welcomed back into school next week, and we would like to thank you for helping to reduce the number of people who have had Covid in our communities. For many families, returning to school will be an exciting time, but for others a worrying one. Whilst we need to reiterate that school attendance is mandatory, we want to reassure you that our schools are ready for the full reopening and are committed to keeping all children, staff and visitors safe.

Since your child was last in school there have been some important changes.

### **Rapid testing for staff (LFD testing)**

School staff are now testing regularly to help identify people who have Covid but do not have symptoms or have not yet started to feel unwell. Regular LFD testing followed by self isolation breaks the chain of infection quickly and reduces the number of people who are potential contacts of the case.

### **Household testing**

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils are also able to access LFD home testing kits. Test should be completed twice a week by those people who are not testing already as part of their jobs or because they are a pupil at a secondary school. The kits contain 2 packs of home test kits, each with 7 kits, you can get hold of these kits by;

- going to a collection point,
- ordering kits direct to your house.

Full guidance including how to order the kits can be found here: [www.trafford.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.trafford.gov.uk/coronavirus).

- **How you can help:** As a household take part in this important testing programme but remember, it is only designed to identify cases where there are no symptoms. If you have any Covid symptoms, please take a PCR test instead. You can get a test delivered to your home or by attending a testing centre details of how to book can be found at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

Ways we need your help.

- If someone in your household has Covid symptoms, and is waiting to be tested or for test results, **all household members must self-isolate until the results are known**. Do not send children into school, or go into work yourself until the test result is known. If the result is positive, all household members must self-isolate for 10 days.
- **If you are a contact, you have to self-isolate for 10 days from the last contact with the case**. It does not matter whether you have a test and you are negative, you must still self-isolate. If your child has been sent home from school as a contact, they must not leave the

house or garden or see friends during this period. This will stop other people getting the infection if you or your child are developing the infection.

- **Do not have visitors into your home and do not visit others in their home.** We appreciate this is difficult especially when there have been life events; deaths, births or celebrations but this is so important to reducing the risk. Under current legal restrictions this is also illegal and you may be fined.


**Parents or carers, please talk to your older children about the risks of socialising at this time, and remind them about the health and legal impacts of this.**

- **Reduce mixing of different households or families outside of the home too.** The weather is improving and we are all feeling excited by the lifting of lockdown rules over the next few months, however at the present time we are still in lockdown and reducing our contact with others is the best way to stop spread of the infection.
- Remember to wear face coverings, keep two metres apart from people not in your household and wash your hands regularly – all these actions reduce the spread of the infection.

We all know that ensuring our children get the education they deserve is important for their health and wellbeing, as well as their futures. We also need to protect our vulnerable families and friends. There is no one way to prevent to spread of the infection. We all have to play our part and we are asking for your support so that we can together stop the spread of Covid, keep our children and families safe and keep our schools open to improve the lives of our children.

Yours faithfully,

Kirsten Warren

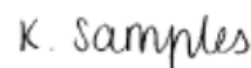


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