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EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

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Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

Parents, RBWM Schools

22nd October 2021

Dear Parent,

The local authority, together with the local director of public health, have written to schools asking them to implement a few additional measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 locally. You can read the [letter in full on the news section of our website](#).

We have done this as the rate of Covid infections in school age children is at its highest level in the pandemic so far. There are a few things that we can do to reduce the spread of the virus and the two key actions are:

1. To promote the wearing of masks, where individuals are able, in areas where large numbers of people mix. In school those are the communal areas but not classrooms.
2. When there is a close contact with a case, especially within a household, we are asking everyone to take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test, to spot infections as quickly as possible. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing.

We have asked for this testing to happen as there is strong evidence from the daily contact testing trial conducted in 201 schools between April and June 2021 that daily testing of exposed students and staff for COVID-9 was equivalent to self-isolation of whole year groups.

School leaders are working hard to ensure that all pupils are able to continue to learn to the fullest extent possible and will continue to make decisions in the best interest of children. Many of those decisions will be judgement calls based on local school conditions and your child's school will advise you of the steps they will be taking.

It is also vital that anyone eligible for the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines gets vaccinated at the earliest available opportunity. This includes parents and carers as this will help enhance individual protection, but also curtail onward transmission. There is no doubt the NHS and other support services are going to face one of the toughest winters in history. We are therefore asking everyone to play their part to help minimise the impact. As previously communicated to all schools, any parent, carer or young person who has questions on vaccination can speak to Cllr Carroll directly who is a professional infectious disease and vaccines expert working at the heart of government on the pandemic. Please do just feel free to make contact on cllr.carroll@rbwm.gov.uk should you have any questions.

Duncan Sharkey – Chief Executive

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We know you will support schools to ensure that they can continue to provide effective education while helping to keep the risks of this virus under control. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Carroll', with a horizontal line underneath.

Cllr Carroll
Deputy Chairman of Cabinet,
Adult Social Care, Children's
Services, Health and Mental Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clive Haines'.

Clive Haines
Schools Leadership Development
Manager