



Dear Parents,

15th June 2021

During the last few weeks, many areas across the country have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases; Wirral is no different. Wirral is recording more new cases of the Delta variant, (previously called 'Indian variant') than any other variant of the virus. There is clear community transmission of this variant, but there is currently no reason to believe the vaccines are any less effective against it.

Whilst cases per school remain very low at present for Wirral, there have been a few small outbreaks.

Students, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- They have one or more COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a continuous cough, have lost their sense of smell/taste)
- A member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has COVID-19 symptoms
- They are legally required to quarantine, having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- They have had a positive test
- Have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19

Students, staff and other adults must immediately cease to attend (and not attend for at least 10 days) from the day after:

- The start of symptoms
- The test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive LFD or PCR test.

In the situation where an individual has been at school during the infectious period, close and direct contacts of the case two days prior to the child or staff member falling ill will be identified. This is likely to be the classmates and the teacher of that class. All close contacts will be contacted and given isolation instructions.

If a parent or carer is experiencing one of the 3 main COVID symptoms and is waiting for the results of a PCR test, they should not send their children into schools while they are awaiting the results. Information about symptoms-only testing centres can be found here: www.wirral.gov.uk/test

Local Authority guidance states that parents/carers should be reminded not to use home LFDs to test whether symptomatic primary-age children have COVID or not. While convenient to use these at home, the difficulty in carrying out a nasal and throat swab with a young child means that the test results are often not valid. If parents have a symptomatic child, they need to book a supervised PCR test. See www.wirral.gov.uk for local details.

By maintaining our mitigation strategies of 'Hands, Face, Space' in school, including the continued wearing of face coverings on site by adults and social distancing, we very much hope that we can minimise any cases in school. For households with young children like yourselves, parents can test themselves as an indicator of whether there is a likelihood of COVID being transmitted among the family. Symptom-free test kits can be collected from local testing centres, local pharmacies, some council buildings including libraries and leisure centres as well as from mobile testing vehicles (www.wirral.gov.uk/mobiletesting). If anyone tests positive, the household should isolate immediately, inform the school and book a PCR test.

Our school risk assessment is still available on the Return to School section of our website and government reminders can be found on the website link below: www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

With the warmer weather and increased pollen levels, it's important for people to understand the difference between the symptoms of hay fever and COVID-19. While the symptoms of coronavirus and hay fever can

overlap, people with hay fever don't experience a high temperature and most won't feel unwell. However, hay fever can play tricks on your sense of smell and give you a sore throat. If in doubt, please be on the safe side and arrange a test to rule out Covid-19.

Please can I stress the importance of letting the school office know of positive test results as soon as possible so that we can inform the correct people of actions that need to be taken.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely,

Mr Milne
Deputy Headteacher