

4 October 2021

Your COVID school update from Staffordshire County Council

As you will be aware, we have worked with schools to outline extra measures they may want to take to limit the spread of Covid-19. Here is a message schools may want to share with parents directly about these measures:

Covid-19 rates in Staffordshire are now some of the highest in the UK, and we must do everything we can to reduce these rates and stop the spread of the virus in our communities.

The biggest numbers of cases are in the 11 to 18 age group, and our schools and colleges are being particularly affected by this.

Because of this, we are asking all schools and parents to do what they can to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

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As a parent, you can help by continuing to LFT test your child twice a week if they are aged 11+. If they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19 you must keep them off school and get a PCR test as soon as possible at a local testing site.

If another member of your household tests positive for Covid-19, we strongly recommend that all members of your household get PCR tests as a precaution. We would also advise you to stay at home until you get your result.

We have also put together some extra measures that schools may want to take to limit the spread. Each school will be different, and are able to pick and choose which (if any) of the extra measures they might want to take in their setting.

These include:

The reintroduction of class bubbles for limiting of contact in school, not for isolation purposes.

No all-school events like assemblies for the time being

Enhanced cleaning, especially in high-risk areas

Possible reintroduction of face coverings in secondary schools

Promotion of the vaccine to eligible pupils and staff

Plus any other pre-summer break Covid controls where the school sees fit to do so.

If infection rates escalate, some schools may need to close for short period and move lessons online (for some classes/year groups), to prevent the spread and reduce ongoing transmission.

Your school will let you know which (if any) of these measures they will be implementing. These measures are not compulsory, and schools continue to develop their own Outbreak Management Plans. However, if your school has chosen to introduce some or all of these measures, we ask that you please support them and do everything you can to stop the spread of Covid-19.

This update is produced and distributed by Staffordshire County Council.