



13 January 2022

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 much higher than we have seen before at 1,860 people with the virus for every 100,000 of the population. This obviously reflects the national position and is linked to the Omicron variant which is much more transmissible than previous strains.

In December national guidance in relation to close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases changed. This now means that double vaccinated adults and under 18s do not need to isolate, and instead take a lateral flow test (LFT) every day for the next 7 days. For information regarding access to LFTs see:

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

Please note that any adults who are not double vaccinated and are identified as close contacts must isolate for 10 clear days after the day of last contact with a case.

If you or your child experience any of the symptoms of COVID-19 you are advised to book a PCR test. Please book PCR tests online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you have a positive lateral flow test (LFT), but have no symptoms, you no longer need a PCR test to confirm this. All positive cases (LFT and PCR) should isolate and follow national "Stay at Home" guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

In addition, where case rates in schools are high or where schools are managing outbreaks, we may recommend household contacts take a PCR test and do not attend their education setting whilst they await their result, alongside undertaking daily LFTs for 7 days. This will help to minimise transmission in education settings.

Due to the changed self-isolation requirements lateral flow testing (LFT) is now one of the most important tools in managing infection rates and reducing transmission on an ongoing basis. It is also helpful in identifying asymptomatic cases, and therefore reducing transmission and the overall number of children and young people that may test positive.

You can order LFTs or find places to collect / take a test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Lateral flow testing is already in place for secondary age pupils, on a twice weekly basis. There is currently no national recommendation for primary-age pupils to have a regular LFT (unless a close contact and undertaking daily testing). You will be aware, however, that we locally recommend all parents and carers of children attending a primary school or early years setting to also regularly test and you can access home testing kits at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> . If you are unable to access home kits we recommend you access a LFT through community sites. For more information on community LFT testing please see https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/1/council_and_democracy/3813/community_testing

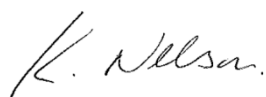
The other critical tool in managing covid is vaccination. Please see all the drop in clinics available from Coventry and Warwickshire below, as well as all the sites you can book into. Please note that you can book in for 12-15 year old vaccinations at Central Library in Coventry City Centre, Quinton Park Medical Centre, and you can book or drop in at the Coventry and North Warwickshire Cricket Club in Binley.

<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/vaccination-drop-in-clinics/>

<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/vaccination-sites/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Kirston Nelson
Director of Education & Skills



Valerie de Souza
Interim Director of Public Health and Wellbeing