

**Dear parents and guardians**

**Update to parents on Covid-19 in Lancashire schools and colleges**

In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Lancashire, including a large number of outbreaks reported in education settings. As many of you will know, this wave of infections has been driven by the Delta variant.

In response to this, Lancashire is increasing testing where necessary and offering vaccinations in more convenient locations in coronavirus hotspots. It is particularly important that everyone in our communities gets both doses of the vaccine – which is now available to anyone over 18 – as this provides maximum protection against the Delta variant.

As well as this, everyone in Lancashire, including children, are being strongly encouraged to take a Covid-19 PCR test especially in outbreak situations. People should in the meantime continue to make use of free twice-weekly rapid tests, commonly known as lateral flow devices.

**What happens after your test?**

If you test positive with a PCR test, you must isolate with your household for 10 days, from the day you took the test or the day your symptoms started. If you test negative, you do not need to isolate, unless you have been identified as a close contact, but you should continue to follow national coronavirus guidelines.

If you are identified as a close contact, it is important you self-isolate for the full 10 days or as advised. Household members of close contacts do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms.

Children should not be sent into school if anyone in the household develops one or more of the three classic Covid-19 symptoms which are: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and co-operation. We must remain hopeful that through our collective action and supporting each other, we can manage this phase of the pandemic and keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely



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Director of Public Health