

8th November 2021

Dear parents and carers

I am writing today to update you on the recommendation we have been given from Public Health Oldham on COVID 19 Control Measures in Secondary School.

Please see the information below:

Recommendations on Covid-19 Control Measures in Secondary Schools

While Oldham schools saw lower rates of Covid-19 in the first half of the autumn term compared with many parts of the country, we did have some sizeable outbreaks and our case rate does continue to be higher than we would wish. In addition, we are entering into the winter season when viruses are likely to be spreading more throughout the population. We know that you have already implemented measures to restrict the spread of COVID in your schools, including supporting routine LFD testing for staff and pupils, increasing ventilation, and continuing with robust cleaning regimes.

We feel that it is important to strengthen these measures now, before we see any increases in our case rate. There is a risk, that if we wait until rates are even higher, we will have waited too long to control the spread.

Although we have seen more than 2,000 12-15 year olds vaccinated in Oldham already, many children and young people are not yet vaccinated and so are still susceptible to infection.

We are therefore recommending a few simple additional measures to help reduce transmission in secondary schools. We have selected measures that will have the least impact on teaching and learning but will still be effective in reducing spread. Your support in implementing these measures will help us to support you to keep schools open and ensure that children can continue to access in-person education.

Face Coverings

From Monday 8th November, we are recommending that pupils and staff in secondary schools and colleges wear face coverings when moving around the school and in communal areas. Face coverings lower the risk of spreading the virus if someone has the virus but is not displaying symptoms. Pupils will not need to wear face coverings while sitting at their desks in classrooms, whilst eating or outside.

We continue to recommend strongly that face coverings are also used on public transport. This measure should have limited impact on education in the classroom, and help to reduce the risk of transmission

LFD Testing for Household Contacts

Since August, adults who are double vaccinated and children do not need to self-isolate if they live with someone who has COVID-19.

We are asking all students and staff members who live with someone who has COVID-19 to do daily lateral flow tests (LFD test) before coming into school (unless they are exempt—see below). Pupils should start this testing from the day their household member either became unwell with COVID-19, or tested positive if they did not have symptoms, and continue this for 10 days.

Please remember:

- If a child tests negative, they can continue attending school.
- If a child has a positive LFD result, they must start isolating, have a PCR test and should inform school.

The groups exempt from this advice are:

- Any child who cannot tolerate daily testing, for example children with special educational additional needs.
- Any child, aged between 5–16 yrs, who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days.

We will review these additional measures after a month, and as ever will provide updated guidance, as necessary.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Best Wishes,

Katrina Stephens
Director of Public Health
Oldham Council

Gerard Jones
Managing Director Children and Young People (DCS)
Oldham Council

Following this recommendation, I can now confirm we will be re-introducing the wearing of face coverings in the academy from Tuesday 9th November 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Dillon
Principal

Principal - Marie Dillon

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