

Date: 12 October 2021



City of
Stoke-on-Trent

**Adult Social Care, Health Integration
and Wellbeing**

Civic Centre, Glebe Street
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 4HH

Dear Parents, Carers, Guardians

As Director of Public Health, I wanted to make you aware of our local recommendations to help reduce transmission of Covid-19 in schools and reduce the disruption and impact on learning caused by cases within schools for all our children and young people. Covid-19 cases in Stoke-on-Trent are still too high, particularly cases in children and this is affecting schools. We are also aware of outbreaks of other infections that are causing school disruptions e.g. influenza and norovirus, so being extra vigilant will help reduce the impact to learning.

As you will be aware public health are working closely with schools to provide advice and support on the management of any covid cases. This support aims to enable schools to run as normally as possible, although some additional measures are likely to be required for a short time to help limit spread if a school sees increasing numbers of cases; these could include testing, face coverings and limiting some non-essential events and activities. Your school will keep you informed about any additional measures they are taking.

The main recommendation we would like to make you aware of relates to children who are household contacts of positive cases. We now ask that:

- **Children who are household contacts** of a confirmed case (PCR positive) should undertake a PCR test, with or without symptoms, and remain home until a negative PCR is returned.
- If the PCR result is negative then children can return to school.
- Children who are household contacts are also recommended to have a further PCR test after 4 or 5 days as a precaution to check they have not become infected. They can continue to attend the setting when waiting on the second PCR result.

We recognise that this advice is in addition to the current national guidance and any parents, guardians or carers who still want their child to attend school have the right to send them into the setting. We strongly advise that the precautions above are taken but recognise that this cannot be enforced.

Tell us if you need this letter in an alternative format

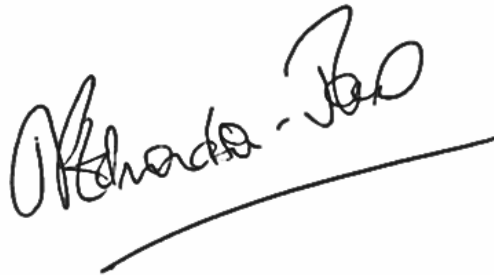
Get in touch

Telephone: 01782 234 234 stoke.gov.uk



We also encourage you to continue to help keep Covid-19 rates low by regularly LFT testing your child twice a week if they are aged 11+; keeping them off school if they are showing any symptoms and getting them PCR tested promptly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Edmondson-Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones
Director of Adult Social Care, Health Integration and Wellbeing
paul.edmondson-jones@stoke.gov.uk

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