



To:
Parent / Carer

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS
Council House
Manor Square
Solihull West Midlands B91 3QB
Tel: 0121 704 6734
Email: louise.rees@solihull.gov.uk

Your Ref.
Our Ref. LR/RT/sm

Please ask for: Louise Rees/Ruth
Tennant
Date: 20 May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Firstly I want to thank you for all your help in keeping children, young people and staff safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your efforts have been very much appreciated. However, we must emphasise that although the cases of Covid-19 have thankfully reduced, the pandemic is not over and we need your support and help to further ensure the safety of our communities in Solihull.

If your child or young person has any **symptoms of Covid-19** and you are asked to take them for a **PCR test** by their school/education setting, it is **extremely important that you comply with this request**. In some cases, if there is an outbreak in a school/setting, a test may be requested for one of the lesser known symptoms, rather than for the three main Covid-19 symptoms of a new, continuous cough, high temperature and loss/change of taste/smell. Unlike the rapid home tests, PCR tests will also detect new variants and it's critical that we identify these to stop any spread very rapidly.

There have been occasions recently when refusal to test children has led to precautionary isolations of pupils and staff from schools/settings. This has been extremely stressful and disruptive for the families and staff concerned. Whilst there is no alternative but to take this action at times to ensure everyone stays safe, families co-operating with requests to have PCR tests avoids unnecessary isolation for contacts of the symptomatic pupil. Equally, if you are instructed to **isolate**, you **must comply** with this request to ensure the safety of others. Your help with this is very much appreciated.

We fully understand that the pandemic has been long and challenging but we need to ensure that protective measures, such as having tests, isolating when someone in the household has Covid-19 symptoms or tests positive, wearing face coverings at the school gates/public places and good hand hygiene are hugely important to help us get back to normal.

Cont....