

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Council House, Manor Square  
Solihull, West Midlands  
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[www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)

Date: 25 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**COVID UPDATE**

As we head towards the end of the school year, we have seen an increase in COVID cases in young people across Solihull. This has meant that some schools have had to send bubbles home and put in place on-line teaching for certain year groups for a short period of time where there have been larger outbreaks in schools.

There have been 293 new case of COVID in the most recent 7 days and our local rate is now 112 per 100k compared to 12 per 100k a month ago. Rates have increased quickly in the 11-16 and 17-18 age groups.

As the number of people who have had both doses of vaccination increases we expect the situation to improve. We now have very good vaccine coverage in older people and this also means that we have far fewer people in hospital with COVID. The vaccine is working well and most people who need hospitalisation or are seriously ill with COVID are adults who are not vaccinated or have only had one dose.

The increase in rates has been caused by the Delta strain which spreads very quickly. For a short period of time we have discussed some key steps with our school leaders which we're asking for your help with to minimise disruption in the last few weeks of the school term, and to reduce the risk that young people may pass COVID to adults who aren't fully protected by vaccination.

1. We are advising secondary schools to reintroduce face coverings for pupils in Year 7 upwards in lessons and in communal areas (e.g. corridors) from Monday 28 June 2021 for a time limited period for the next two weeks unless exempt.
2. We're also advising that transition days should be held online unless there are specific reasons why a child needs to visit the school in-person (strictly only in exceptional circumstances due to a mental health and/or additional needs) in which case we will support schools, parents and carers to do this safely. This is extremely important in preventing bubbles mixing across multiple schools.
3. Please do keep up twice weekly-testing for your secondary aged pupil and family members.
4. If you need to self-isolate, there is funding available to help you to this. From 25 June, you are eligible for this if you earn below £26,000.

For further information, please see our website <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/Self-isolating-payment>

Thank you for all your help.

Yours sincerely

**Ruth Tennant**  
**Director of Public Health**