Sefton Council

Public Health & Wellbeing
1st Floor Magdalen House
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01/09/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your children had an enjoyable and safe summer break, and are ready for the start of the academic year. With your children returning to the classroom, we wanted to take this opportunity to write about the changes this term in schools across the country. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/backtoschool.

Each school will have completed their own risk assessment and identified specific measures for their settings. In the first instance, we would encourage you to check with your school directly to find out more about their plans. Below, we have set out a summary of relevant national guidance.

Safety Measures

- Schools and educational settings will remove 'pupil bubbles' and social distancing/mixing measures.
- Children and young people will no longer be required to wear face coverings in school, however it is recommended that a face covering be worn in 'crowded and enclosed places' e.g. on public or dedicated school transport.
- Regular hand washing, personal hygiene and ventilation continue to be extremely important in stopping the spread of COVID-19.
- If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in your children's educational setting, you might be advised by your educational setting that some control measures need to be temporarily reintroduced.

Contact Tracing

- From the Autumn term, NHS Test & Trace will be responsible for contact tracing of all positive cases. If your child or young person tests positive for COVID-19, you should still inform your educational setting, however contact tracing will then be conducted by NHS Test & Trace.
- Those under the age of 18 and 6 months are no longer advised to isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case. They will be asked to take a PCR test. If the PCR result is positive, the individual will then be required to self-isolate. All known contacts of positive COVID-19 cases should be reported to NHS Test & Trace, no matter vaccination status or age.

Symptomatic Testing (PCR)

- If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should book an appointment for them to have a PCR test. They should not come into school

whilst they are awaiting the test results, even if they feel better. If the test is negative, they can return to school. If they test is positive they should continue to isolate and follow public health advice.

- You can book an appointment at www.gov.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.
- Information on symptoms can be found at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/.

Testing with No Symptoms (LFD)

- Taking regular rapid lateral flow tests (LFD tests) continues to be one of the most effective ways to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, we encourage parents, carers, secondary and college children to take part in LFD testing.
- If you attend or work at a school, college or nursery you can get rapid tests through your school, college or nursery. Further details of this will be provided by your educational setting.
- There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to do testing if they do not have symptoms or are not a contact of a positive COVID-19 case.
- Information about testing is available at www.sefton.gov.uk/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-testing

Vaccination

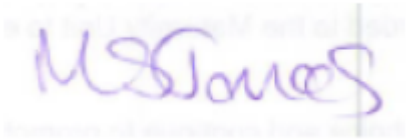
- The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and they give the best protection against the virus. We would encourage those who are eligible to get both doses as soon as possible. More information on COVID-19 vaccines can be found at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination.

We know that this is a challenging time for both yourselves and your children and we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping our schools to operate effectively whilst minimising COVID-19 transmission and keeping staff and pupils safe. For more information, advice and guidance, please visit our dedicated FAQ page at www.sefton.gov.uk/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-and-schools/schools-faqs/

Finally, we would like to wish your children all the success in this upcoming academic year.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Jones,



Director of Public Health
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council