



1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure, you are aware, confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 remain very high within the Stafford area. The County Council have highlighted that rates are particularly high within the 11 to 18 age group.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we want to be as proactive as possible to limit transmission of the virus within school and the community. Therefore, in line with our Outbreak Management Plan and in discussion with the Local Outbreak Team, in school we will be introducing a number of further enhancements to our systems and procedures. In addition to this, there are actions that you can take at home to support our efforts.

Face Coverings: All pupils (unless exempt) wear a face covering in corridors and indoor communal spaces (e.g. canteen). Please make sure your child brings a face covering to school every day along with a sealable storage bag or container to keep the covering safe between use.

Home Testing: Please support your child in testing at home using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD). We ask children to complete their home tests twice a week on a Monday and Thursday morning.

Symptomatic Individuals: If any child is showing any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of taste and/or smell) you must keep them off school and get a PCR test as soon as possible.

Household Contacts: If a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that all members of your household get PCR tests as a precaution. We are also now being advised by the County Council that people should stay at home until you receive the result – this will normally take 48-72 hours.

Personal Hygiene: Remember that there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

All additional measures will be kept in place until the end of this half term. Should we receive further information before this date, or the number of cases increase significantly, we will be in touch to explain further measures that will be implemented.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

Specific Advice for Year 9 & 10 only

As we have a number of cases in Year 9 & 10, we are advising all Year 9 & 10 pupils to take a PCR test even if you have had one recently. Your child is not required to self-isolate in this circumstance, unless they have symptoms, but we request that they take the PCR test as soon as possible. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119. Your child can continue to attend school while they await the results of the test. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community. If individuals are having difficulties booking a test on line, they should use the 'my council/local authority has asked me to book a test' option. We would very much appreciate parents sharing the result of the test with the school.

Once again, we apologise for any disruption and worry these measures may cause. However, we know that you will support us to be proactive and take the necessary action to help us do all that we can to keep our children safe. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or require any advice. Take care.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Lycett
Headteacher

**Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett**

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ
Tel: (01785) 258383
Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

Letter from Staffordshire County Council

Dear parent,

Covid-19 rates in Staffordshire are now some of the highest in the UK, and we must do everything we can to reduce these rates and stop the spread of the virus in our communities.

The biggest numbers of cases are in the 11 to 18 age group, with schools and colleges in Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands and Lichfield particularly badly affected. Because of this, we are asking all schools and parents to do what they can to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

As a parent, you can help by continuing to LFT test your child twice a week. If they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19 you must keep them off school and get a PCR test as soon as possible at a local testing site.

If another member of your household tests positive for Covid-19, we strongly recommend that all members of your household get PCR tests as a precaution. We would also advise you to stay at home until you get your result.

We have also put together some extra measures that schools **are being encouraged** to take to limit the spread. These include:

- The reintroduction of year group or class bubbles
- No all-school events like assemblies for the time being
- Enhanced cleaning, especially in high-risk areas
- Staggering of start, end and lunch times
- Possible reintroduction of face coverings in secondary schools
- Request that all contacts of positive cases are asked to get a PCR test
- Where pupils/staff have a sibling/parent/guardian/other member in their household who is a confirmed case there is a high risk of infection. PCR testing strongly advised for all household contacts. Pupils/staff household contacts advised to stay at home pending PCR test result – this will normally take 48-72 hours.
- Promotion of the vaccine to eligible pupils and staff
- Consideration of other pre-summer break Covid controls where the school sees fit to do so.

If infection rates escalate, some schools may need to close for short period and move lessons online (for some classes/year groups), to prevent the spread and reduce ongoing transmission.

You school will let you know which (if any) of these measures they will be implementing in the coming days. These measures are not compulsory, and schools continue to develop their own Outbreak Management Plans. However, if your school has chosen to introduce some or all of these measures, we ask that you please support them and do everything you can to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

Staffordshire County Council

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk