

### Face Coverings in Schools

Primary age children are not required to wear a face covering in school, but staff should wear a face covering when leaving their bubble and moving around school. Parents are also expected to wear a face covering when on the school site and when distancing is not possible at pick up and drop off times.

### Symptom Free (Lateral Flow testing (LFT) for children & staff

There is no national recommendation for primary-age pupils to have a LFT.

Staff in primary schools are still to do twice weekly LFT. This continues to be the national and local expectation as an important tool in managing infection rates and reducing opportunity for further spread. It regularly identifies people with no symptoms, therefore reduces transmission and the number of children and young people that may need to isolate.

### Symptom free twice weekly testing for parents and carers

We would like to encourage parents and carers to carry out twice weekly symptom-free (LFT) tests so we can identify positive cases at the earliest opportunity and help to stop transmission

Residents can access symptom free tests in a number of ways:

- Collect kits from local pharmacies
- Collect kits from local sites
- Get a test done at a local testing site
- Via the post

You will need to register the result of your test on the government website.

For more information go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/symptom-free-testing](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/symptom-free-testing).

### Vaccine for parents and carers

From Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May all adults aged 34 and over in Dudley will be eligible to receive a covid-19 vaccination, we encourage all eligible people to have the vaccine when offered.

You will be notified directly from the NHS or from your GP as to when you can book your slot. For more information go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### Other arrangements

Schools will be continuing with their system of controls to manage infection rates such as staggered start and finish times, one-way systems and expectation that parents remain socially distanced and wear face coverings on site. Schools will also be continuing to arrange children and young people in groups / bubbles

We may also at times ask for the introduction of extended measures for pupils or staff in response to localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.

### General Controls

Continue to do the things that you have been doing to keep our education settings safe. These are:

- Not sending your child to their nursery, childminder, school or college if they are showing coronavirus symptoms or someone within the household is showing symptoms
- Arranging a test if you or your child develops symptoms\*(see below) – no matter how mild – and informing the nursery, childminder, school or college of the result • Keeping your child at home where they have been identified as having contact with a confirmed case either in school or elsewhere
- Ensuring that the whole household isolate where a household member is awaiting a result, and continued isolation if test result is positive
- Reinforcing with your children the importance of washing/sanitising hands, make space and minimise contact
- Supporting your schools by understanding and reinforcing the measures and procedures expected by your school; hands, face, space, test
- Continuing to adhere to the national guidelines

### **Be aware of symptoms and arrange a test**

The 3 classic covid-19 symptoms are;

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Anyone with the above symptoms must isolate (and their household) and arrange a PCR test.

Other symptoms which may be linked to covid-19;

- headaches • sneezing
- aches and pains • tummy ache in children • sore throat • feeling very tired for no good reason • runny nose

Anyone feeling generally unwell or with these symptoms is asked to take a PCR test to check if it is covid-19 or seasonal illness.

If you would like any more help and advice around COVID-19, please go to:

[https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus.](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)